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Iraq

Despite rumors of cancellation, Iraqi opposition groups are meeting in northern Iraq on 21 and 22 September, according to Voice of the People of Kurdistan radio. A Patriotic Union of Kurdistan spokesman said that "most" of the Iraqi opposition factions are meeting in Irbil in the "first conference the opposition has held on Iraqi territory." The spokesman said that there are two main items on the agenda: "coordination and cooperation among various opposition factions and the extremely critical situation in various parts of Iraq."

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad has placed Defense Minister Mustafa Talas under "house arrest," Baghdad INA reports, citing the Tunisian paper AL-SHURUQ. According to "well-informed" Arab sources in Washington, al-Asad has ordered Talas "to remain in his house and not to go to the Defense Ministry." The action comes in the wake of Talas' recent opposition to the return of al-Asad's brother to Damascus.

Arab-Israeli Talks

No Progress Reported in Washington Talks

JN2209082092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Four working sessions of the bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations were held last night without any progress. Moreover, the Arab delegations held a coordination meeting at the Jordanian ambassador's residence in Washington.

Reports from Washington, as of early this morning, say that no progress had been made on the four Arab-Israeli negotiation tracks.

Discussions on the Jordanian-Israeli track continued over points of difference regarding the agenda in light of Israel's refusal to place a number of items on the agenda. Furthermore, there are no signs of any progress in the Lebanese-Israeli track.

On the Palestinian-Israeli track, Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said following last night's session that the delegation has decided to reformulate its stand because Israel refuses to negotiate on the basis of UN Resolution 242 and the land-for-peace principle. Dr. 'Ashrawi said that in an attempt to prevent an obstruction of the negotiations over the agenda, the Palestinian delegation proposed that every issue emanating from the negotiations be discussed separately.

The Israeli delegation last week refused a Palestinian proposal to discuss UN Resolution 242, saying that this resolution stipulates a permanent agreement, while the current negotiations are tackling the establishment of transitional self-rule in the occupied territories.

Sources close to the negotiations have said that Washington did not support the Palestinian stand in this discussion, which prompted the delegation to say that it will continue to present the issue of Israeli withdrawal in the future to show that there is no separation between a temporary solution and withdrawal.

Following last night's meeting, Israeli delegation spokesman Yosi Gal said that the negotiations with the Palestinian side were held in a serious atmosphere. He added that the two delegations have formed an unofficial group, comprising three representatives from each side. These representatives will meet on the sidelines of the plenary session. He said that this should facilitate the negotiations.

On the Syrian-Israeli track, it was noticed that last night's session was held in a more relaxed atmosphere than that of last Thursday when the impression of an impasse developed. So far, however, no progress has been reported. However, Syrian chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf has affirmed his determination to continue negotiations. Following the meeting, he said that both sides discussed for three hours different aspects of the Syrian document submitted earlier in this round as well as the comments and ideas presented by the Israeli delegation. He stressed that the tone of the negotiations was constructive but no progress was made. Yet, al-'Allaf said that he got the impression that the Israeli delegation may change its intransigent stands on some important items in the Syrian document during today's session. He also noted that the Israelis want the Syrians to try to redraft their proposals.

Despite his attempt to be cautious, Israeli chief delegate Itamar Rabinovich said that last night's negotiations gave hope that a joint declaration might be reached at the end of this week. Rabinovich said that no progress has been made, but both the Syrian and Israeli sides have defined the points on which important progress can be achieved.

The Arab delegations taking part in the negotations met at the Jordanian ambassador's residence in Washington last night to continue coordination among the Arab delegations within the peace process.

The sixth round of bilateral talks in Washington is expected to end on Thursday, 24 September 1992. This is the longest round held so far within the framework of the bilateral Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

A spokesman for the Israeli delegation has said that his delegation proposed holding another session of negotiations in Washington on 21 October 1992; that is, before the U.S. elections. This was also confirmed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last night.

Rabinovich on Possibility of Joint Statement

TA2109191892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] A new week of Middle East peace talks is under way in Washington. A short while ago the meeting between Israel and Syria ended, with both delegation heads sounding more optimistic than after their previous session last Thursday, when the Syrians walked out. We go over now to reporter Connie Lonn at the State Department:

[Begin recording] [Lonn] The Israeli-Arab peace talks have resumed for the week. At the end of the first session, Israeli negotiator Itamar Rabinovich said progress was not made today, but there is a chance of progress; there is still a possibility of a joint Syrian-Israeli statement by the end of the week.

[Rabinovich] I was asked about that earlier, when I said that I wouldn't want to put any deadlines here because it is delicate, fragile, and complex—and I wouldn't want to do that. There were some sparks in the discussion today which left some hope that this could be done this week, but I wouldn't want to put any percentage on the odds. But, even if we end the week without a joint statement of principle, I will not be disappointed. There is always the next round and the added motivation to do that next time around.

[Lonn] Mr. Rabinovich added another round of talks could be held in Washington October 21st. If the Arab parties do not agree to that, then the talks would be held in November.

Syrian negotiator Muwaffaq al-'Allaf said no progress was reported today, but he is not completely pessimistic. I asked him whether the issue of the Golan Heights and withdrawal was raised today.

[Al-'Allaf] No, it is not like that. It is not that we raised them and they said no. The Israeli position is still noncommitting

concerning what they mean by the territorial dimension of the peace process, while they are very insisting on much more details concerning all other issues. We are saying that we treat all elements in the same way, with the same importance. And we are willing and ready to discuss all elements, including territory, including peace, including security in the same manner and with the same stress.

[Lonn] Israeli-Palestinian talks were also held at the State Department Monday. Elyaqim Rubinstein called the first session useful. [end recording]

Al-'Allaf Says October Round Under Consideration

JN2109205092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radiod Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks, has said that today's meeting, the 13th meeting in the ongoing sixth round of talks, did not made any progress.

Al-'Allaf added that the discussions during the meeting focused on the Syrian document. However, the Israeli side has not thus far expressed an Israeli commitment to all the basic principles enshrined in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, nor has it subscribed to the principle of exchanging land for peace, he noted.

Al-'Allaf went on to say: Now that no progress has thus far been made; there are fears that this round of talks will end just like the previous five rounds of talks.

Al-'Allaf hoped that the Israeli side will carry with it what would meaningfully respond to the Syrian document when the talks are resumed tomorrow.

When queried about whether the holding of a seventh round of talks was raised during today's meeting, al-'Allaf said: The Israeli side proposed holding another round of talks, to last one week, beginning 21 October. The Syrian Arab delegation answered that it will provide an answer to this proposal before the conclusion of this round of talks and after consultations with the other Arab delegations and also with the cosponsors of the peace conference.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP, DFLP Reportedly Form 'Unified Command'

JN2109202192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Sep 92

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], announced in a Damascus rally that the DFLP and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] have formed a unified command to confront the projects to eliminate Palestinian rights, particularly the right of self-determination, by establishing self-rule in the occupied territories and settling the Palestinians in the host Arab countries.

PLO Offical Reiterates Palestinian Peace Demands

JN2009174992 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Sep 92

["Part" of interview with PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by Muhammad Kurayshan in Tunis; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kurayshan] Brother Yasir: Is the presence in Tunis of two members of the Palestinian delegation part of the normal consultations between the delegation and the Palestinian leadership, or is it intended to prepare for a new Palestinian position in light of the stumbling Washington talks?

['Abd-Rabbuh] In fact, there is no new Palestinian position. We held consultations with the members of the delegation in light of the proceedings of negotiations over the past weeks. There was complete agreement on our plan for the upcoming week of negotiations, after which this round of talks will end. Our plan is based on insistence that Resolution 242 is the foundation of all the transitional and final phases of the negotiating process. There are also a number of principal issues, which support this position, including the nature and powers of Palestinian authority during the transitional phase. Our position is clear in this regard. Palestinian authority should cover the land, water, legislative rights; all the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, especially Jerusalem; and a complete halt to settlement on these territories. There are also other points, including the rights of Palestinian evacuees and refugees and the establishment of Palestinian national authority over the occupied territories, which should be dealt with in accordance with international resolutions.

The Israeli position is also clear. It wants to avoid discussing any substantive issues and wants only to discuss bilateral and secondary matters to gain more time, because it seems that they do not want to achieve any substantial progress before the U.S. elections, and until they know the nature of the forthcoming U.S. Administration. It seems that they have obtained all they wanted from the current U.S. Administration, especially after Rabin's visit to Washington and the results of that visit.

Daily Criticizes Syrian Approach to Peace

NC2109185792 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 20 Sep pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Will the Settlement Take Place Before the End of Bush's Term?"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department spokesman has declared that the ups and downs in the peace process do not necessarily require direct U.S. intervention. He pointed out that his country is determined to see to it that the various sides resolve the major issues of dispute—land, peace, and security. The United States wants the sides to deal effectively with the existing political process. Despite open statements that the negotiations have reached a deadlock, there is progress in the talks.

It has become evident that Washington does not intend to play a broader direct role at this stage of the peace process, although the process, which started in Madrid under U.S. sponsorship, would not have continued had it not been for the U.S. pressure. No one in the world can confront this pressure, because the United States has become the master of the world.

We do not know whether Damascus has been convinced that it should comply with the United States' wishes. Damascus has softened its stands and started to talk about mutual recognition and security requirements between Israel and Syria; they are now saying that peace has become attainable. The Arab world was taken aback by the new tone in Damascus. No doubt this change in the Syrian attitude and the Israeli response has confused ways of thinking and planning in many Arab quarters. All that the Syrians and Israelis are saying, however, appears to be for local consumption. It seems that the two sides had agreed on certain guidelines and that what remains is the way to implement these guidelines.

Regardless of the attempts by Arab sides to make things look the way they want, the wheel of settlement concerning the Golan Heights and the Syrian-Israeli relations has started turning. There is no need for the secrecy because the picture is becoming clearer. Israel is concerned with removing the Syrians from the ring of struggle as they did Egypt 12 years ago. Throughout the history of the Arab-Israeli struggle, the Palestinian people have been the ones to pay the price for every Arab-Israeli agreement.

In a bid to water down the bitter situation, the sides started to talk about a settlement between Syria and Israel—similar to the agreement between North and South Korea on the 38th parallel—in an attempt not to equate the settlement with that produced by the Camp David Accords. This is quite evident in what President Hafiz al- Asad declared after his meeting with President Husni Mubarak—that the settlement is based on complete withdrawal in return for comprehensive peace and preserving Israel's security by deploying U.S. forces in the Golan Heights.

This shows that the settlement is not linked to any settlement with the other parties and that Syria will conclude agreements with Israel similar to the Camp David Accords. Syria's conditions do not differ from the conditions set by President al- Sadat at that time. Israeli political sources have said that they look forward to an agreement in principle with Syria about the settlement before George Bush's term expires in one and a half months.

The Palestinian side must realize that there is no need to disapprove what is going on or to try to ignore the realities and facts. There is no need to conceal the scandal or avoid facing it. It will not be long before emaciated settlements, which have been approved by Damascus, are imposed on our people. It seems that we accept today with humiliation what we have rejected in the past. And may peace be upon he who understands the message.

Fatah Denies Signing Damascus 10-Faction Statement

JN2209095992 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 22 Sep 92 p 18

[Text] Amman—A spokesman for the Palestinian Embassy in Amman has stated the following: The Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, was not a signatory to the statement issued in Damascus a few days ago signed by 10 factions.

Fatah Official Survives Attack in South Lebanon

NC2109123292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Ahmad Amin, a member of the Fatah Movement, has survived an assassination attempt last night. He was injured in both legs by bullets fired by unknown gunmen. Amin was in a car in al-Burj al- Shamali camp in Tyre when the attack took place. A Palestinian source disclosed that this attack and similar recent ones are part of the settling of accounts under way between the Fatah Movement of Yasir 'Arafat and the Fatah Movement-Revolutionary Council of Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna].

Egypt

Mubarak on Peace Talks, Abu Musa, Elections

NC2109092392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed Egypt's extreme concern for achieving peace at any time or place. For this reason, he said, Egypt is making every effort to advance the peace negotiations to solve the Middle East problem with a view to realizing the hope of all: a permanent peace based on justice to achieve stability and security for all the peoples in the region.

In exclusive statements to MAYU newspaper, organ of the ruling National Democratic Party, published today, President Mubarak affirmed the need to continue the peace negotiations for the benefit of all the parties, because withdrawal from these talks would be harmful and benefit no one. President Mubarak called on the Arab negotiators to be patient, and and draw on from past negotiating experience in this respect. He emphasized that the negotiations must continue on the basis of the principle of "land for peace."

President Mubarak said Syria realizes the importance of achieving peace in the region, and that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad wants the negotiations to continue.

The president pointed out that he will discuss with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], who will visit Egypt today the latest developments in the Arab and international situations, particularly the situation between Iran and the UAE.

President Mubarak noted Egypt's firm position which rejects the principle of aggression against the territory of others. He explained that negotiations between the UAE and Iran regarding the islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Sughra, and Tunb al-Kubra, which Iran occupied, is the best way for the establishment of peace in the region.

Referring to his trip to China, North Korea, and Pakistan which will begin on 11 October, he said that he will discuss with the leaders of these states international issues in the light of the new world order, as well as regional issues and the strengthening of bilateral cooperation between Egypt and these states.

Regarding the local elections that will take place in November, President Mubarak said he has issued instructions that the selection of candidates be fair and based on certain criteria, including the candidate's good reputation and distinguished national service. President Mubarak said: "There should be no favoritism in preparing the list of candidates. We respect democracy and do not approve of imposing candidates on the people."

Al-Baz, Israeli Minister Discuss Peace Talks

NC2109150192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1229 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with Israeli Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am, who currently is visiting Cairo.

Dr. al-Baz said afterward that the talks dealt with the need to achieve tangible progress in the peace talks during the coming weeks.

Al-Baz added that he explained to the Israeli minister the need for Israel to show more flexibility in the peace efforts during its negotiations with the Syrian and Palestinian sides because it is no good to waste the existing momentum or to dash the hopes hinged on the new Israeli Government's intentions.

Al-Baz noted that Syria has shown a desire for a comprehensive and just peace in the region, that the Palestinians have demonstrated positive determination to accept a two-stage solution, and that Israel should reciprocate with similar flexibility.

For his part, the Israeli minister said they discussed issues relating to the Arab-Israeli negotiations and that the basis for these negotiations is Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Rabin Remarks Seen Hindering Peace Process

NC1909122192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0627 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—The two newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH today commented on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's lightning visit to Egypt for talks with President Husni Mubarak.

The two papers affirmed that this visit came at a sensitive time with respect to the Middle East peace talks and the crisis over the disputed three Gulf islands between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. [passage omitted]

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH clarified that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's lightning visit to Egypt coincided with the progression of the Washington talks to the stage of presenting ideas and propositions, not only on the Syrian side followed by Israel, but also by the United States—one of the cosponsors of the peace conference. Reports circulated about the U.S. commitment to presenting compromise proposals in light of the Syrian and Israeli documents.

The newspaper expressed its regret that amid these encouraging efforts, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin continues to make statements that do not help the feelings of optimism that public opinion is currently enjoying. The paper warned against feeling too much of this optimism.

At a time when Syria is proposing positive and constructive ideas based on the principle of retrieving land for peace, we see Rabin repeating the statement that Israel will not declare its readiness to negotiate over the Golan Heights until after Syria presents a convincing peace plan, the paper noted.

The paper adds: After many observers hoped that positive results could be reached at an early stage before the U.S. presidential elections in November, Yitzhaq Rabin expects the negotiations to go on for anywhere from six months to one year.

The paper concludes its editorial by saying that as the sixth round of peace talks in Washington is about to end, the clouds of questions over the region are growing denser due to Israel's stand.

Israeli 'Maneuvers' on Golan Issue Examined

NC1909100792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Zayn al-Ja'fari commentary: "How the Arab Negotiator Should Confront Israel's Maneuvers"]

[Text] The summit talks between Arab leaders Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad in Alexandria Wednesday were part of Egypt's constant contacts and consultations to serve the causes of the Arab nation. As far as timing is concerned, the Egyptian-Syrian summit assumed particular importance. It focused on extremely important issues for the future of the Arab nation—notably the Arab strategy in the current Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, the need for further coordination between the two countries, and the need for flexibility in the face of Israel's tactics, which are usually based on procrastination and elusiveness.

The Egyptian-Syrian summit comes at a time when news from Washington about the peace talks causes optimism at times and pessimism at others. This is only natural, given that the negotiating parties have been enemies for about half a century, and that the topics on the table are difficult and entangled, with the recent world developments making them even more complicated. When we say this is natural, we mean that the Arab-Israeli conflict, which began about 50 years ago, cannot be resolved overnight, in weeks, or even in months. This argument would not appear as a departure from the truth if we recall that it took more than a full year of extensive tours by the U.S. secretary of state, as well as other efforts at all levels, just to bring Israel and the Arabs to the negotiating table in Madrid.

In light of all this, we can only say that the Arab side should, at this particular time, pursue a policy of measured breath, and demonstrate patience and wisdom. Those who believe Israel will easily acknowledge legitimate Arab rights are making a grave mistake. Israel is seeking a heavy price for recognizing Arab rights and accepting a settlement of the Palestine question and a withdrawal from the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon.

Israel's attempts to reach an agreement with Syria in advance on the meaning of peace is ample evidence of this. Israel presented to the Syrian delegation what it termed a declaration of principle, and was eager not to characterize the offer as a proposal. This declaration provides for mutual diplomatic recognition, opening of borders, and the establishment of economic links before Israel makes a single step toward withdrawal from the Golan.

Because the current round of talks is still at an early stage, we cannot now judge its outcome. However, based on the course of things, we believe the Israeli offer, in form and content, is unacceptable to Syria, especially since Israeli Prime Minister Rabin had already announced that Israel accepts Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for a land-for-peace exchange; that is, peace between the Arabs and Israel cannot be achieved without the latter pulling out of the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank, Gaza, the Syrian Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon.

Therefore, talking about normalization between Israel and Syria before the former embarks on withdrawal is part of Israel's maneuvers. Israel seeks to make the largest possible gains in return for any step it deems a concession. From this premise, the Arab negotiator must keep in mind that Israel, though appearing to be the stronger side with all bargaining cards, realizes that it will be the first to benefit from peace in the region.

Paper Says Iraq Needed To Counter Iran

NC2009071092 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Sep 92 p9

[Editorial: "Iran Is Trying to Impose Hegemony on the Gulf"]

[Text] Iran has revealed its true stance toward the Gulf states after a long period of claiming it wanted friendship and protection of peace and stability in the Gulf region. Iran's expression of its real intentions came when it announced full control of Abu Musa Island, one of three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates occupied by Iran since 1971.

The recent Iranian stand is a warning to some of the Gulf states that the security of the Arab Gulf states cannot be guaranteed except through agreement and cooperation with other Arab Gulf states as well as non-Gulf Arab states in order to steel themselves against the challenges from abroad and from neighboring countries, specifically Iran. It appears that the latter could not continue to play the role of the Gulf states' friend since the collapse of Iraqi military might in the wake of the Gulf war tempted it to fill the gap and play the role of the principal regional power that wants to impose its hegemony on the Gulf in the absence of Iraq.

Thus, repealing the sanctions imposed on Iraq following the removal of its weapons of mass destruction and halting Western plans to partition it are necessary to maintain the balance and strengthen security and stability in the region.

Signs of Arab-Iraqi Conciliation Viewed

NC1909082592 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Sep 92 pp 1, 3

[Mahfuz al-Ansari article: "$10 Billion for the Damascus Declaration Countries. An Arab Envoy to Baghdad"]

[Text] I met with a number of ministers, ambassadors, and politicians in the corridors of the Arab League, where Arab foreign ministers are now meeting to discuss the nation's affairs. Most of them had just come from Jakarta, where the Nonaligned summit was held. Arab ministers and diplomats met on the sidelines of this summit and its preparatory meetings. Eight ministers had come from Doha, where the foreign ministers of the "Damascus Declaration" had just met.

In these quick meetings in the Arab League corridors, I heard a number of "political tales," each of which gives a ray of hope and heralds the start of a change in tendencies, policies, and practices.

Without getting deep into a lengthy preamble, I will note several topics discussed in these meetings; stories with signals through which we can discern a change in the spirit of joint action and a change in methods and courses.

The most important of these topics and stories were:

1. The future of action within the framework of the "Damascus Declaration" and the concept of economic, political, and military cooperation in implementation of the declaration and its clauses.

2. Iraq's position and its future in light of the "existing disputes" and the antagonisms and tensions created by the invasion and liberation of Kuwait.

3. Iran and the Gulf: the Arab stand vis-a-vis the Iranian violations of the principles of good neighborliness and aggression against an Arab territory.

I. The Damascus Declaration.

Regarding this declaration and in light of the Doha meetings and results, the ministers and ambassadors I met stressed that a real change has taken place, and that a new spirit and a sincere will have clearly emerged at the Doha meeting. More than this, all of them—and some of them were members of the drafting committees—explained that agreement has been reached for the first time on a constitutent framework for "cooperation." This means that action, cooperation, and coordination between these countries will not be done on the basis of general agreements governed by "moods" at some times or disturbed by lapses here or there but will governed and organized by detailed economic, political, and military and security affairs agreements.

On the basis of this understanding, the Doha meeting decided that the foreign ministers' meetings should be held every six months; that is, at least twice a year. It also decided that the meetings of finance and economy ministers should also be held periodically. It left the issue of military and security cooperation to be decided by the countries within the framework of national sovereignty, a decision that is to be concluded at the bilateral level between each of the Gulf states, Egypt, and Syria according to each country's interests and national calculations.

The same formula is used for the security and military arrangements and agreements concluded separately between each one of the six Gulf states and the United States, Britain, and France.

The issue of economic cooperation was also one of the important issues that emerged during the Gulf crisis—alongside the issue of security and military cooperation between the eight countries—on the basis of integration between those with financial resources, the Gulf countries, and those with military force. The Doha meeting showed great interest in this economic issue. This interest in its new form is moving toward implementation, and is not a mere intention.

The declaration states decided to allocate $10 billion in the form of a fund or "financing body" that will implement the joint projects agreed upon. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates will equally cover three quarters of this fund; that is, $7.5 billion, with each paying $2.5 billion. The other Gulf states—Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman—will make up the remaining $2.5 billion.

In order to implement this agreement, it was decided that the eight countries' finance and economy ministers would meet in Cairo in November to agree on the final setup of the financing body and draw up the principal outlines of rules, bylaws, and method of action.

II. Iraq and its Arab position:

Many of those I met confirmed that there is a change in the Iraqi position. They pointed to a new "reconciliatory" [muhadanah] policy and Iraq's asking for cooperation and avoiding a confrontation. Those who took part in the Jakarta summit meeting observed and confirmed this from specific initiatives. The problem of the "Kuwaiti prisoners" was raised there. Some asked Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat'Abd-al-Majid to intervene. He expressed his willingness to do so if he receives positive signs from Iraq. Taha Yasin Ramadan asked to meet 'Abd-al-Majid after the latter had met with the Iraqi foreign minister.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid was clear and frank. He told Ramadan that he was ready then to appoint an envoy to go to Baghdad with a message for President Saddam Husayn and discuss with him pending issues, especially the humanitarian aspect of the prisoners, as well as other issues. This would only take place if the Iraqi president so wishes and is ready to meet with him.

Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed to the secretary general that he agrees, and that Baghdad is ready to receive his representative and set an appointment with the Iraqi president. The agreement was reached and preparations were under way to start the "goodwill" operation.

In Cairo, during the ministers' first meeting, new signs of change appeared.

Behind the scenes, Iraq handed a memorandum to the secretary general asking that the subject of the no-fly zone imposed by the Western alliance countries on southern Iraq be placed on the agenda.

The memorandum explained the dangers of having this measure pass without any Arab rejection issued by the Arab League and its Council of Ministers, because such an action could represent an accepted precedent which could be imposed on any Arab country in the future if the interests and policies conflict with those of the West.

In light of the threats that the Gulf countries—especially Kuwait—are being subjected to now that Iraq's tone has regained its previous pre-war pitch by considering Kuwait the 19th governorate, such a memorandum could have prompted Kuwait and the Gulf countries to submit a counterproposal to include the Iraqi threats on the agenda. The conference would then have been transformed into a debate, or war of words, or futile political argument.

This is where Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa intervened in cooperation with the Arab League secretary general.

'Abd-al-Majid took on the mission of preventing the conference from falling into this abyss. He met with the Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs.

'Amr Musa, chairman of the Arab League's current round, met with the Iraqi minister.

The surprise was that the Iraqi minister did not show any opposition to the views of the secretary general and Egyptian minister.

He showed some flexibility and did not insist on listing the article on the agenda as long as all the ministers were made aware of it and that the Secretariat distributed it to the delegations.

In return, 'Amr Musa on behalf of Egypt and 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on behalf of the rest of the Arab countries with whom he had met and discussed things affirmed that Egypt and the Arabs are opposed to the division of Iraq, that they support the continued unity of Iraqi soil; and that they side with the Iraqi people, even though they might disagree with its leadership.

The crisis ended, leaving in its wake major implications and signalling the start of a change that needs follow-up through wisdom and accurate calculation.

III. Iranian threats:

The third topic was reflected in the unanimous condemnation at the Damascus meetings, and then the Cairo meetings, of the Iranian actions, acts of aggression, and threats against Arab territories, especially in the three Gulf islands Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra. The political situation during and after the Gulf crisis was foreshadowing and predicting different policies and various interpretations, as regards relations with Iraq and an Iranian role in Gulf security arrangements.

In light of the many interpretations and clear differences between the policies and trends inside the Gulf countries, a number of these countries took the initiative to extend bridges of cooperation, hold meetings, show understanding, and establish joint projects with Iran.

The issue went even farther than this acceptable level of political practice to reach a stage of showing understanding for Iran's claims to keep Egypt out of the Gulf and its countries since it does not lie on the Gulf.

The peak of contradiction or tragedy emerged when we noticed all six Gulf countries restoring their relations and friendship with Iran—the center of threats and the source of designs and greed—and leaving Egypt—which fought in defense of the Gulf and its independence and territory—in a fictitious and suspect conflict with Iran. [sentence as published]

This took place while the game was being revealed and the objective was clear: to distance Egypt and separately isolate each Gulf country.

The important point here in that no one listened then.

Also, the Iranians could not wait much longer. Their designs were revealed clearly and aggressively. Today, they hold claim over the islands; tomorrow, the countries.

In Doha, and today in Cairo, everyone recognized the mistake. Everyone saw the game and signed the statements of rejection and condemnation.

Do these indications and signs truly bear the truth of the meaning of change? Do they really forecast a new reality? We certainly hope so.

Islamist Success in Bar Association Vote Viewed

NC2009064092 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 17 Sep 92 p 7

[Text] No one had expected the Islamist ticket to win a sweeping majority in Friday's Bar Association elections. Could this stunning result repeat itself in the nationwide local elections scheduled for November? Nabil 'Abd-al-Fattah of AL-AHRAM's Centre for Political and Strategic Studies analyses the far-reaching significance of last week's vote.

The fact of the Islamist tendency winning a majority of seats on the ruling council of the Egyptian Bar Association represents one of the most significant political events in a decade.

Recent disturbances in various parts of Egypt, involving acts of terrorism and political or sectarian violence, have pointed to a worrying rise in religious extremism, and revealed previously undetected political and social trends. The winning of majority control of the Bar Association by the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamist tendency points to an increase in religio-political activity by peaceful means as well. It is particularly significant as a step towards Islamist dominance of intermediary organisations in society, especially the professional syndicates, by means of the ballotbox.

Successive victories for the Islamicists in the doctors', engineers', pharmacists' and dentists' syndicates have not had the major political impact that their success at the Bar Association may well have. For one thing, it was easy in these syndicates, given the confused scientific cultural make-up of their memberships, to disrupt and redirect their political and intellectual orientation. The prevailing political culture among most of their members was a jumbled mixture of fatalism and obscurantism, modern values and back-ward-looking traditional values, and for nearly 20 years now, the Islamist tendency has swept the university faculties from which they graduate. In any case, these syndicates have only a limited record as players on Egypt's political stage.

The Bar Association, however, is the oldest professional syndicate in Egypt and has a long historical tradition of political activity. Egypt's lawyers represent one of three pillars of the legal profession (the others being judges and

legal experts in university law faculties) which have historically played an extremely important part in the modernisation of Egyptian society, by adapting modern legal systems to suit the conditions of Egypt's traditional society. Lawyers have played a major role in political life at all stages of Egyptian history, both before and after the 1952 revolution.

The ideas of liberalism and party politics can be largely attributed to the role of lawyers and their syndicate, the Bar Association. They have also played a significant role in the Muslim Brotherhood and the Youth of Muhammad movement, and at present some of them are members of Jihad. In addition to its history of involvement in political activity, the Bar Association has also traditionally been involved in nationalist activity in modern times, providing a frame of reference and political culture based on modern law and the political institutions of the modern state for most of its members, including those followers of political Islam who try to marry Islamic thinking with modern liberalism.

For the Islamist tendency to take majority control of this syndicate's ruling council is therefore of exceptional significance. For a start, it was completely unexpected. Although the entry of Islamist candidates into the race raised the political temperature, no one thought they would win.

Under its present chairman, the Bar Association had ceased to play either a professional or political role. Because of his close political connections with leading government figures and his ability to play off the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) and the opposition Wafd Party against each other, he put the Association in a political vacuum reducing its functions to purely professional matters. Its political activities went no further than the issuing of ineffectual, moderately worded statements on specific national issues or problems.

This tacit alliance between the government and the chairman of the Bar Association led to political, professional and even legal disputes between the outgoing council and chairman and a number of other members. There were fist-fights, and even weapons used, in the struggle for control of the Association's headquarters in Cairo, and incidents at police stations, prosecutors' offices and in the courts. Legal rulings were issued to invalidate calls for extraordinary general meetings, and in the end the Association's work became completely paralysed. The chairman also used his close links with the government to have a law passed—within a matter of hours—requiring judicial supervision for syndicate elections, after a court had ruled in favour of the legal, and hence political views of his opponents. The manner in which this battle was fought undoubtedly contributed to the Islamists victory last Friday.

The elections were important but as a way of resolving this internal dispute through the ballot box and as a way of measuring the political pulse of both the syndicate and society at large, following a period of vacuum and paralysis in which the lawyers had virtually withdrawn from public life.

The economic recession and inflation have affected their work in the private sector and, as in other professions, some turned to other jobs because of unemployment, as major law offices shed jobs in order to cut costs. They also faced increasing problems regarding medical and other benefits, and corruption in the running of the Association. These matters came to form the main topics of political and professional discourse among them at the Association, at the law-courts and during the election campaign.

The campaign changed course with the entry of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamist tendency, but still no one expected them to win, even when leaflets and posters appeared calling for the Islamisation of the Bar Association or at least for it to be brought under the control of the Islamist tendency and Muslim Brotherhood. The call came both in the form of a list of candidates headed (if only symbolically) by Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, son of Hasan al- Banna, the original murshid (Supreme Guide) and founder of the society, and in the form of a leaflet purportedly published by the Muslim Brotherhood, though many people doubted its authenticity.

The leaflet called for all women lawyers to wear Islamic dress (i.e. hegab, the veil) when appearing in court or in lawyers' chambers; for a ban on women lawyers travelling on syndicate business without a male relative as chaperone; for syndicate-sponsored travel to be confined to visiting religious sites and making pilgrimages; for lawyers to deal with their clients on an Islamic basis and not agree to represent defendants charged with indecency, drugs-related offences, drunkenness, sale of alcohol or adultery; and for the Bar Association club's activities to be restricted to setting up committees for "enjoining the good and forbidding the evil" as enjoined in the Qur'an.

This leaflet, whose authenticity and source were highly suspect, and which may well not have originated with the Islamicists caused a backlash which was expected to scare lawyers away from voting for the Islamist candidates. Experts at the syndicate still did not imagine the Islamists could win more than a handful of council seats, because everyone was still thinking in terms of the syndicate's strong liberal and democratic tradition. (All trends were represented and present, but it was always Egyptian liberalism that was the dominant factor in the legal and political culture of Egypt's lawyers). So how did this surprise result come about?

We see here a system capable of producing defeat for the liberal, nationalist and Marxist trends in Egyptian politics. Last week's election result was the clearest example yet of this, but such things have happened so often, in all fields, that it has become a feature of Egyptian political life.

One indirect cause of this is the deterioration in the educational and professional make-up of the syndicate, which has allowed the arguments of the various strands of the Islamist tendency to permeate it. There has been a decline in standards at law faculties, with a mixture of liberal and reactionary values being taught, partly as a result of professors being seconded to the oil states and losing touch with the historic Egyptian tradition of teaching Islamic jurisprudence in accordance with modern methodologies, including comparative studies between positive law and the Islamic

Sharia system. This has led to a confused and uncreative approach to the training of young legal professionals in Egypt, leaving the field wide open for the activities of political Islam. As a result, a new generation of Islamic activists has emerged. Sometimes, for example, young judges rule directly in accordance with the Sharia, ignoring the provisions of modern law, and the Bar Association elections provide another example of this trend.

There are also more direct causes for the Islamists' victory. One is the internal fragmentation and conflict within the syndicate, and the weakness of its administration and ruling council. This has caused widespread anger among lawyers, especially as it has led to a decline in professional services such as medical benefits, of its own members and their clients. Many lawyers have lost interest in syndicate activities as a result.

These internal conflicts also revealed attempts by the Wafd, NDP and Nasirist parties to use the Bar Association for their own ends, with the emergence of reactionary trends there since its 1985 elections and the setting up of Sharia committees both at headquarters and at branch level.

The chairman's special relationship with the state since the late Rifa't al-Mahjub became speaker of the People's Assembly has meant that the state has supported him in exchange for him weakening the political role of the syndicate, effectively creating a total political vacuum among the community of Egyptian layers and virtually shutting down its Cairo headquarters except for a few administrative services in the mornings only.

This has helped to create a suitable climate for the Islamists' activities among lawyers. Political activity, one of the symbols of lawyers' status in society, has now shifted elsewhere. It has moved to their rooms at the various lawcourts, which are like daily clubs where lawyers can discuss political and legal matters and opinion, and to their offices, which have become lively channels for Islamist activity supported by the younger generation.

The syndicate and its ruling council have not paid any attention to the problem of unemployment among young lawyers, or to matters such as modern professional legal training. The psychological state created by unemployment generates a flood of anger, and in the absence of any political role for the syndicate it finds no outlet or anything to channel it in a healthy direction. The young therefore turn to the most potent force in the community, the Islamist tendency, which largely embodies anger against the state and against the forces that made up the council of the Bar Association. The weakness of other political forces, the sterility of their arguments and their remoteness from the younger generation of Egyptian lawyers have helped to create fertile ground for effective Islamist activity within the greatest bastion of liberal thought in Egypt.

Poor relations between lawyers and the security forces—especially at police stations—and the insults and attacks that lawyers face have also affected the image of the Bar Association and its old council together with the state, and this is an important factor. Many will have opted for the Islamist tendency, as the strongest force there is politically and socially, simply as a protest vote.

The government made a number of fatal mistakes in the election campaign by allying itself with the syndicate's chairman and the non-Islamic tendencies. First of all, by concentrating the political and media attack on the Islamist tendency, it created a stark choice between the liberals, Nasirists, Marxists and independents on the one hand and the Islamists on the other. The concentrated media attack on the Muslim Brotherhood created an atmosphere of sympathy for its representatives, especially as those involved in this attack were the very same people responsible for all the problems of the syndicate, and further linked them with the state in lawyers' minds, thus turning the campaign into a struggle between the government and Islam. This approach—including the fabrication of spurious leaflets—had the effect of mobilising all the factors and general frustrations discussed above into a vote against the government and its representatives. Some members of the Bar Association will, of course, also have voted for the Islamists as a positive choice rather than merely as a protest vote.

The victory of the Islamist tendency at the Bar Association means that it has now completed its policy of encircling the professional syndicates because of their important position in Egyptian society, as the oldest most vigorous and influential of civil organisations. It is thus a historic victory, showing up the rigidity of the political thinking of liberal, nationalist and Marxist forces and political institutions, and their inability to maintain even a minimum of the dynamism necessary to contain these manifestations of anger and protest among the middle classes against the prevalent institutions and policies.

Vacuous tranquillity occasionally punctured by gunfire and political violence is not the same thing as political stability. The vacuum will only be filled by the vigorous and effective activities of the Islamist tendency, with its fixed aim of gaining control over the intermediary organisations of society and implanting institutions of its own.

The current political situation in Egypt betrays a rigidity in official institutions and a qualitative crisis in the political performance of their personnel. Meanwhile political and religio- sectarian violence is building up and undergoing a radical transformation, while the Islamists also pursue a policy of concentrated rapid deployment in order to fill the vacuum in politics, professional syndicates and other organisations, and to reshape these professional sectors of society in a way which will in turn affect society at a more popular level.

We can therefore expect a heated campaign for the local elections in November—just look at the Algerian example—with large amounts of money being spent and services offered, together with violence, feuding and political propaganda by the Islamist tendency, which has developed its techniques intelligently since the People's Assembly elections of 1984. There may also be extensive activity among

labour organisations. Friday's political victory may soon produce a mood conducive to violence on the part of Islamist radicals.

The old generation of politicians and syndicalists in Egypt clearly no longer has a role to play in determining the fate of the Bar Association. State and opposition party support for tired old has-beens no longer does them any good.

But the most serious implications of that event are the collapse of traditional liberalism in Egypt, and a sharp change in the political mood of the middle and lower middle class who form the social backbone of the Egyptian legal community. It represents their despair of the whole modern project, which they used to support and promote, both professionally and politically. Egyptian liberals with a pedigree going back generations have shifted their allegiance, and after years of impotent liberal thinking they are turning in another direction, superficially attractive but ambiguous in its practical applications, that is soaking up their anger and explosive political potential. The younger generation is looking for an alternative and trying to impose it by means of both bullet and ballots.

The Islamists' success will surely lead the Muslim Brothers to harden their political line against the state and other political tendencies. This will become apparent in the language and vocabulary of their political discourse, and the revival of political and professional activity at the Bar Association. In confrontations with judges, prosecutors and the police, lawyers will have the full backing of their syndicate. This will take place, however, within a clearly ideological framework, which may lead a number of Coptic lawyers to withdraw. Unfortunately, no Coptic lawyer was successful in the elections, even though some of the most prominent lawyers in Egypt are Copts, and they have played an important political role in and through the Bar Association.

All this is likely to affect other syndicates too, through various alliances creating an Islamicist syndical bloc, and going beyond that to affect other areas of society as well.

Opposition Said 'Misleading' on U.S. Relations

NC2009082192 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 Sep 92 p 1

[Article by Jalal Duwaydar: "Enough Joking and Underestimating"]

[Text] One of the writer's tasks, when trying to comment on or analyze any subject, is to check the facts and review political and social developments to support his arguments.

Morality and faithfulness to the task demand that the writer express the facts honestly, without resorting to vituperation or serving specific personal and ideological purposes designed to confuse and suppress the facts.

Abiding by these important factors demands diligence and a real desire to serve the national interest, which can be understood mentally and logically in what is consistent with correct values that we have learned politically, socially, and spiritually from Islam, the religion of the fathers and forefathers.

I was surprised to read in one opposition paper—immature and skilled in the art of political arousal—several days ago of an American imperialist onslaught against the Islamic movement and about plots being hatched by the CIA against Islamic activities worldwide.

This opposition paper's political writer and analyst appears to have resorted to a clever method to cover up the fact that they [the opposition] cooperate and are fully involved with the Americans and the American services. If these elements, which claim to belong to Islam, think that such dealings express their increasing confidence in their intelligence and in the stupidity of others, I tell them they are mistaken. The Americans and their services know what they are doing, and on this basis they have opened their country to the leaders of those who fuel terrorism under the slogan of Islam, Islam that has nothing to do with them and with their actions against innocent citizens.

The irrefutable proof lies in America's embracing Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman [leader of the Muslim Brotherhood], the philosopher of terrorism and the man who issued the religious ruling on liquidating the prominent religious, political, and other leaders on charges of atheism. They permitted and facilitated his entry into the United States via Sudan and through Sudanese mediation carried out by al-Turabi [leader of the National Islamic Front], who maintains hegemony over the regime in Khartoum. The information says that he got his "green card," ready to obtain U.S. citizenship. There is no better proof of U.S. patronage of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman than the tours he is making inside the United States to collect funds to be sent to the elements he mobilized and controlled through brainwashing—something that is inconsistent with Islam and its values and principles. What do the writers, champions, and supporters of this line, which 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and his like represent, have to say on the press interviews being conducted with them by U.S. media?

There is another question on the visit to the United States by Hasan al-Turabi, who was installed as the shaykh of "an Islam of the sword, seizing power by force and deception." What do they say about the United States' opening its doors to him to deliver lectures, meet congressional leaders, and visit every part of the United States, the same place used by the leaders of political opportunism to accuse others of subserviency to it? The United States can rally any one of those wearing false turbans it wants to defend its interests, but they have no right to claim or allege the existence of imaginary and false conflicts with the United States or to accuse others of dealing with the United States against their countries and peoples. Enough joking, misleading, and underestimating the intelligence of others.

'Silent Minority' Urged To Confront 'Extremists'

NC2209105992 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 19 Sep 92 pp 1, 5

[Report by AKHBAR AL-YAWM political editor]

[Excerpts] News agencies in Cairo have received a statement signed by the Islamic Union Organization, warning foreign tourists against traveling to Egypt and threatening to assassinate any appearing next Wednesday [23 September] in the towns of Luxor and Qina. The German news agency DPA showed interest in the statement and cabled it to its country's press. The warning was published in some German newspapers.

It is not this pamphlet's silliness, the triviality of the warning, or even that some tourists, believing it, are not visiting Egypt that are important. What is important, in my view, is how much some people who belong to Egypt hate their country. Just imagine Egyptians who have nothing to worry about other than damaging their country's interests terrorizing those who want to visit it and threatening those who are looking for peace and security on its soil. It is amazing that this organization claims to raise the slogan of Islam and calls itself the Islamic Union Organization.

I do not know what Islam they are talking about and what Islam's slogans they are raising. Is it the Islam of those who have no patriotism? Is it the Islam of those who have no affiliation, loyalty, or belief in anything? Is it the Islam of those who have no aim, but to accuse others of blasphemy, to commit aggression against their people, and to undermine security and safety in the country of Egypt?

Which verses in our holy Koran have given these ignorant people the notion that Islam means frightening people and undermining the safety of believers? Which sayings of Prophet Muhammad, God's prayers and peace upon him, has given these heretics the right to kill, rob, undermine, and destroy? From which school or books have these spiteful people learned to hate their brothers in Islam and in all other religions? We see them struggling to stop construction, halt development, and kill off any ray of hope in reform and salvation!

We have not had one answer to all these questions. The ignorants, heretics, and spiteful have not read the Koran. If they have, they have not understood it. They have not read the prophet's sayings. If they have, they have not understood them. And they will never learn. They have not been educated, although they have graduated from schools and universities.

Such dissenters are found in every country. In any of the divine religions, we see people who are ignorant of their religion's teachings and who attribute to it axioms of their own imagination. We find such people in Egypt. We find people who are Muslims in name and not deed, Muslims in slogans, but delinquents in their actions, Muslims with beards and robes, but terrorists in mind and heart. The only difference between the treatment of such people in other countries and their treatment in our country is that these countries compel them to abide by certain limits before infringing on the limits of others. Here we give them a free rein to attack others, frighten the innocent, and scare the peaceful.

We do not want to do injustice to the innocent.

We respect and appreciate the pious and see them as the best and most honorable citizens, but a violent extremist must be confronted with the same violence. Divine and temporal laws say an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. For some reasons, of which we are or are not aware, some people do not believe in these principles. They reject confronting terrorism and demand tolerance of and magnanimity toward the terrorists, even if this terrorism claims the lives of hundreds and thousands of victims. These people's stand should surprise and frighten us. [passage omitted]

This serious escalation of activity by extremist groups must awaken the silent majority, who must act to put this screaming minority in its proper place. The terrorist groups are not content to quench their thirst with the blood of innocent Egyptians, being assassinated by groups in a treacherous and cowardly way. Their aim now is to wreck Egypt's present and future as a country and as a peaceful people. They believe that any success the regime achieves in easing the economic situation is a new obstacle to the implementation of their plots to control Egypt and terrorism. This is why these groups reject every reform, investment, and success.

These groups know that tourism now represents an extremely important source of Egyptian revenue. Tourists are coming to our country in increasing numbers every year and for many reasons. One reason is that Egypt and its people have become famous as a good and safe place that welcomes guests. Tourism must be dealt a blow and Egypt deprived of this source of revenue and fame, frightening tourists and warning them against visiting Egypt, where they would be subjected to terrorist attacks.

Slayings, sabotage, terrorism, and damaging Egypt economically, politically, and socially are their constitution and their Islam, too.

Kuwait

Iranian Commerce Minister Seeks To Expand Trade

Meets With Amir

LD2009131792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1027 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 20 Sep (KUNA)—Iranian Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji had separate meetings here today with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister.

Members of the delegation accompanying the Iranian minister, a number of senior Kuwaiti officials, Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadeqi, and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Iran Fawzi al-Jasim attended the two meetings. [passage omitted]

Talks With Commerce Minister

LD2009103692 Tehran IRNA in English 0614 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 20, IRNA—Expansion of Iran-Kuwait commercial and economic cooperation was discussed by visiting Iranian Minister of Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji and his Kuwaiti counterpart 'Abdallah Hasan al-Jarallah in Kuwait Saturday.

Vahaji, who arrived in Kuwait Saturday on a three-day visit, said he would try to lift the exisiting obstacles on the way of export-import activities between the two countries. He voiced Tehran's readiness for opening a branch of the Melli (National) Bank of Iran in Kuwait and establishing a permanent site for offering Iranian goods including industrial products. The idea was welcomed by the Kuwaiti minister.

Later in the day, Vahaji discussed promotion of bilateral economic cooperation with the head of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce who called for further commercial exchanges and more visits by the Iranian and Kuwaiti commercial delegations to the two capitals.

While in Kuwait, Vahaji is to sign a letter of understanding, the draft of which was formulated last year by an Iranian delegation which visited Kuwait.

Minister To Air Demands of Iraq at UN Session

LD1909192692 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in English 1830 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim Al Sabah said today that Kuwait will stress on Iraq's full implementation of the Security Council resolutions during the upcoming UN General Assembly session. Speaking to the Kuwait News Agency before his departure to New York, Shaykh Salim said that Kuwait will push mainly for the release of its prisoners still in Baghdad jails and the demarcation of its borders with Iraq.

On the Abu Musa Island dispute between the UAE and Iran, Shaykh Salim said that he will raise this issue during his speech before the UN General Assembly. He indicated that decisions on this issue were taken during the meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Jeddah, the meetings of the Damascus Declaration member-states in Doha and the Arab League, adding that Kuwait's stance is commensurate with such decisions. Shaykh Salim arrived in London last Monday from Cairo after leading Kuwait's delegation to the Arab League Council meetings.

Oil Production To Rise to Pre-Invasion Level

LD1909145992 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in English 1830 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The Minister of Oil Hamud 'Abdallah al-Raqba said Kuwait's oil production later this month will rise to 1.45 million barrels per day. By the end of this year Kuwait's oil production will touch one and a half million barrels per day, which is the quota approved by OPEC before the heinous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the minister added. In a statement after the conclusion of OPEC meetings in Geneva, the Kuwaiti minister said that the rehabilitation of the oil wells set ablaze by the Iraqi invasion forces will urge Kuwait to ask for a higher oil market share.

Oman

State Minister Leaves for UNGA Meetings

JN2109070792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Muscat, 21 Sep (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left last night for London en route to New York to lead the Sultanate's delegation to the meetings of the 47th session of the UN General Assembly.

During his participation in the session, al-'Alawi will deliver the Sultanate's speech before the UN General Assembly.

Saudi Arabia

British Defense Secretary Visit Reported

Arrives 19 Sep

LD1909200592 Riyadh SPA in English 1919 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Jeddah, Sept. 19, SPA—The British defense secretary, Malcolm Rifkind and accompanying delegation arrived here on Saturday evening on an official visit to the Kingdom.

He was greeted upon arrival to the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general, Prince Fahd Bin Abdallah Bin Muhammad, assistant minister of defense and aviation for civil defense affairs, Alan Munro, the British ambassador to the Kingdom, Gen. Muhammad Saleh al-Hammad, chief of the General Staff and a number of high-ranking civil and military officials.

Departs 21 Sep

LD2109145392 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Excerpt] British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and his accompanying delegation left Jeddah this morning after a three-day visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Official on Conflict With Iran Over Islands

PM2109132592 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Sep 92 pp 1, 4

[Sulayman Nimr report: "Emirates: We Will Seek by All Means To Restore Full Sovereignty Over Islands"]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, Moscow—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has emphasized that it will seek by all possible means to restore its full sovereignty over Abu Musa Island and the two islands of Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra occupied by Iran. [passage omitted]

In Abu Dhabi Ambassador Sayf Sa'id Musa'id, director of the Cooperation Council and the Gulf Department at the UAE Foreign Ministry, told AL-HAYAH: "Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra islands are occupied. As for Abu Musa island, the Iranian authorities are not allowing the UAE to extend its sovereignty over the part belonging to it—which, as far as we are concerned, is completely unacceptable."

When he was asked about the UAE's reply to Iran's claim that it has historical documents indicating that the islands belong to it, and whether his country has any documents to refute this claim, he said: "These three islands are Arab islands belonging to the UAE. And most certainly we have documents which support our historical and legal rights to them. As for Iran's claim that it has documents, it could have taken its documents and headed for international forums to prove its rights, rather than resort to occupation by force and cause the death of martyrs from the UAE in defense of their territory."

Have matters reached the point of estrangement with Iran? Where is the dispute heading? He said: The escalation came from Iran, not from us in the UAE. A Muslim state which we regard as a neighbor to whom we are bound by comprehensive historical ties should not embark on such action which conflicts with our true Islamic religion and which we do not expect from our neighbors.

For our part, we are always eager to maintain our relations with Iran so that they do not reach the point of estrangement, as you put it. Proof of this is our appreciation of our neighbors' circumstances and our waiting for their stability. We waited for a long time for Iran to appreciate this position, but it continued its arrogance and seized what was left of our islands. We waited for the right time to consult and initiate a dialogue with them, but, regrettably, the Iranian side took no account of brotherhood and did not appreciate our position and long wait, despite our strong belief in our historical and legal rights documented in international forums. [passage omitted]

He was asked: After the statements of support for your position issued by the Gulf Cooperation Council meeting, by the Damascus declaration states in Doha, and then recently by the Arab League, what do you want? To refer the matter to the UN to secure a similar resolution? He replied: "We will seek by all possible means to restore the UAE's sovereignty in full." [passage omitted]

U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Official Arrives

JN2109170092 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 21 (GNA)—The Vice Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral David Jeremiah and his accompanying delegation arrived here today.

He was received by UAE [United Arab Emirates] Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Assistant Chief of Staff for Administrative Affairs and Supplies Major General Matar Salim al-Tahir and other officers.

Yemen

Ministers Resign; 'Government Crisis' Foreseen

PM2209100392 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 17 Sep 92 p 1

['Abd-al-Rahman Khabbarah report: "Yemeni Legal Affairs Minister Resigns 24 Hours After Justice Minister"]

[Excerpt] Aden—Yemeni Legal Affairs Minister Isma'il Ahmad al-Wazir submitted his resignation yesterday, 24 hours after a similar decision by Justice Minister 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam—which presages an imminent government crisis in Sanaa.

The minister said in an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT that he had insisted on his resignation for many reasons. He pointed out that his decision was not sudden and that he had reached it after careful examination of the present situation in Yemen.

He emphasized that he originally submitted his resignation many years ago, but it was not accepted at the time. [passage omitted]

Ruling Parties Decide Against Joint Election List

PM1809152192 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Sep 92 p 1

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Yemeni Socialist Party and General People's Congress To Fight Elections Separately"]

[Text] Aden—Well-informed Yemeni party sources have revealed that the two ruling parties (the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party) have reached an unannounced agreement at their meetings over the past few days to abandon the full merger idea until after the election; and to participate in the election on separate lists, while

continuing to maintain coordination between them during the period preceding the elections.

Observers emphasize that the change which has occurred in the two ruling parties' relationship with regard to postponing the merger idea until after the transitional phase will raise the political temperature because of the competition between them. Especially as the General People's Congress had set a condition for its partner in power that, in the event of a full merger's being rejected, participation in the election would be on unified lists.

Observers believe that the Socialist Party's rejection of the idea proposed a year ago regarding a complete and immediate merger with the Congress is an attempt to rally its own ranks, which are divided between on the one hand the demand to convene the party's fourth congress and change its leadership and, on the other, the party's endeavors to stop the flood of collective resignations, which some party newspapers say have reached a limit that threatens the party's existence, especially in the areas which the party is trying to win.

Reform Grouping Party's Al-Ahmar Interviewed

PM1809150392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Sep 92 p 5

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, "chief of Hashid tribe and chairman of the Higher Council of the Preparatory Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping party," by Hammud Munsir in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Munsir] Several pivotal issues, first and foremost the upcoming general election, are interacting on the Yemeni scene. How is the Yemeni Reform Grouping party planning to enter the elections, and what issues will be raised in its election campaign?

[Al-Ahmar] Actually the elections are a political, propaganda, and media battle which involves bargaining and many other things.

In our view in the Reform Grouping, the most important thing concerning this battle is adherence to democracy and credibility. And the elections should be conducted away from the authorities' domination and any other objectives like conspiracy, deception, and swindling. If the elections follow a sound and correct democratic line without any interference from any force, especially the authorities, and if they are not subjected to any interference from the authorities and their methods—whether through intimidation, temptation, or fraud—this is what is required as far as we of the Reform Grouping are concerned, and the outcome, whatever it is, will be acceptable to us. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] It is said that Muslim Brotherhood leaders in the reform Grouping are the ones who adopt hard-line positions on some issues, whereas Shaykh al-Ahmar is characterized by flexibility. Does this not reflect the existence of differences inside the Reform Grouping?

[Al-Ahmar] With regard to views, there are differing views among all organizations and forces, and indeed among the formations of any one organization. People's views of things cannot be identical. Besides, differing views reflect democracy. And when differing views and stands flare up inside organizations and committees, matters are settled by voting on them.

[Munsir] Some people say that there is a fundamentalist tendency within the Yemeni Reform Grouping and that this tendency has links with fundamentalist groups in some Arab countries. What truth is there in this?

[Al-Ahmar] Actually our organization is purely a Yemeni organization, and our Yemeni people are a Muslim people. And the Islamic Shari'ah prevails and is in force, especially in what used to be known as North Yemen before unity. We have never had any positive laws or statutes that violate the Islamic Shari'ah. The Shari'ah has always been in force and, praise be to God, it is still prevailing. Thus there is nothing to prompt us to resort to what is happening to Algeria, Egypt, or elsewhere. This is because what concerns us in Yemen is to keep the Shari'ah effective. As for these countries, they are demanding the restoration of the Shari'ah because they have lost it.

[Munsir] You paid several visits to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after the Gulf crisis. Did you try to mediate between the two sides during these visits?

[Al-Ahmar] I have always employed my cordial relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its officials for serving public welfare and Yemen, whether before or after the Gulf crisis.

[Munsir] Several months ago the so-called popular diplomacy emerged in Yemen, and several Yemeni figures visited the Gulf states. What were the results of these visits?

[Al-Ahmar] So far I cannot say that there has been any effect or that any step has been achieved. But in the end any efforts and endeavors are useful.

And in fact my relations with the royal family and the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are cordial, and I am proud of them.

And I am convinced that Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can only cooperate and maintain a relationship of cooperation and sincere brotherhood. This is because there are more common denominators between the Yemeni people and the Kingdom's people than between any other two peoples. [passage omitted]

Opposition Meeting Begins Despite Predictions

Some Rebels Expect Cancellation

NC2109145192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources expect the Irbil meeting of the Iraqi opposition factions to be canceled because of recent statements by Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] leader Jalal Talabani calling for a federation in Iraq and attacking Iran as well.

In press statements published today, the sources said Talabani's remarks are emotional and do not serve our people's cause. They also aim at antagonizing regional states.

Recent statements by Talabani and other PUK officials have focused on the federalism of Iraq in these delicate circumstances through which Iraq's national cause is passing. These circumstances require intensified efforts by the opposition forces, factions, and parties to overthrow the regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn and to rescue our people from a real tragedy.

Talabani Meets Barzani in Shaqlawah

NC2109191392 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1708 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], returned to the homeland at 1500 today accompanied by a group of Iraqi opposition party leaders. He was welcomed in Shaqlawah by PUK Political Bureau and Command Committee members, Kurdistan parliament members, Kurdistan government members, and a large crowd of PUK peshmergas and cadres.

Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] leader Mas'ud Barzani visited brother Talabani at his residence in Shaqlawah and congratulated him on his safe return to the homeland.

The PUK and KDP Political Bureaus then held a meeting at which they discussed the most important results of the joint visit which Talabani and Barzani recently paid to the United States and Europe. They also discussed the Iraqi opposition conference [mu'tamar] scheduled to be held in Kurdistan in the coming few days.

'Most' Factions Attending

NC2109180992 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1737 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] A Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] spokesman has said that most of the Iraqi opposition factions are meeting today and tomorrow [tajtami'u al-yawm wa ghadan] in Irbil in Iraqi Kurdistan in the first conference the opposition has held on Iraqi territory. The spokesman said that there are two main items on the conference agenda—coordination and cooperation among various opposition factions and the extremely critical situation in various parts of Iraq.

Before the conference began, Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barzani said that he concluded an agreement with PUK leader Jalal Talabani to merge the two parties' forces as a first step toward forming an army in Iraqi Kurdistan under the command of the defense ministry of the Kurdish government formed in May 1992.

UN Experts Arrive To Check Chemical Weapons

NC2109143492 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 21 (AFP)—A team of U.N. weapons experts arrived Monday in Baghdad to check that Iraq has moved all its stocks of chemical weapons to a common site for destruction.

Bernhard Brunner, their Swiss chief, told journalists his six-strong team would visit "various sites" where chemical weapons were once stored "to see how much chemical ammunition is there, to see whether it has been moved or it has been destroyed."

Before meeting Iraqi officials Brunner would not reveal which sites the six-member team planned to visit. He said yesterday the team would certainly be using helicopters to reach the sites.

He also said his team did not intend to visit al-Muthana, once the heart of Iraq's chemical weapons industry, during the 44th mission to Iraq under United Nations disarmament resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war.

Iraq is meant to have moved nerve and mustard gas to al-Muthana, 130 kilometres (80 miles) northwest of Baghdad, for destruction in two incinerators.

It is to begin destroying 140 tonnes of nerve gas at the end of September and 400 tonnes of mustard gas two months from now, U.N. weapons expert Ron Manley said on a visit earlier this month.

The mission is to come back from Iraq via Bahrain on September 29.

U.S. Accused of Using 'Atomic Weapons' in War

JN2009132292 Baghdad INA in English 1245 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sep. 20, INA—German Professor Sikwarth Gunther chairman of the Humanitarian Assistance Society has reiterated that the United States and its allies used during the U.S.-led 30-state war against Iraq fatal atomic weapons.

In a statement to AL-QADISIYAH daily for today, Professor Gunther said that some samples of these weapons which were heavy-weight bullets like a cigarette were placed under tests in Berlin laboratory by specialists in this field.

The tests proved that these bullets have atomic radiation of grave health and environmental effects.

Professor Gunther said that the society consists of three organizations in Germany, Berlin and Vienna, found in 1990.

He added that the society addressed several appeals to various world states on the necessity of breaking the economic blockade imposed on Iraq since August 1990, for its grave consequences.

Regime Reportedly Planning 'Liquidation Operation'

NC2109150392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Tyrant Saddam's regime has prepared a plan to carry out a large-scale liquidation operation against the opposition forces, symbols, and figures.

In newspaper statements published last Thursday, the sources mentioned that they have received confirmation that the regime has set up this terroristic plan. The plan calls for assassinations and carrying out bombings of headquarters and places where opposition factions are concentrated.

The regime sent groups of its agents to European capitals with forged passports to carry out this terrorism.

Rebel Radio Reports Village in South Shelled

JN2109191592 (Clandestine) Kurdistan Voice of Unification in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Between 0700 and 1430 today, the fascist regime engaged in shelling of the village of Shaykh Lankar, which is affiliated with Klar District. [Words indistinct] no (?losses) reported.

Barzani Statement on 'Martyrdom' of Kurds in Berlin

JN1809200692 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] We have received with deep sorrow, the news of the martyrdom of struggler Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi and three of his comrades in Berlin last night.

Brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani made the following statement on the death of Dr. Sharafkandi:

With deep regret and sorrow, we received the news of the martyrdom of struggler Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi, secretary of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran [KDPI], and three of his colleagues in Berlin on the night of 17-18 September.

As we condemn and denounce this hideous crime, which represents the climax of terrorism and injustice, we call on the German authorities to adopt the necessary measures, seize the killers, and reveal their identities and that of those who stand behind these terrorist acts which are denounced by the civilized world. Such acts will never achieve the wicked objectives of the perpetrators and planners.

The acts of killing and terrorism cannot end the Kurdish people and their militant forces. Violence will not resolve the Kurdish issue, but will further complicate it.

We console the deceased's family and the KDPI, and share with them the pain.

Victory is the lot of the Kurds and Kurdistan; and death for terrorists.

[Signed] Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in Iraq, on 18 September 1992

Official Calls for Releasing Assets in Arab States

JN2109101992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0923 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of its Foreign Relations Bureau, has renewed his call on political parties, forces, and personalities in the Arab homeland to step up their solidarity with Iraq by asking Arab governments that have frozen Iraqi assets to release these assets.

In a letter addressed today to these political parties and forces, he said that releasing Iraqi assets is a pan-Arab stance that is in harmony with the will of Arab masses. This act also does not violate Security Council resolutions, especially since Paragraph 20 of Security Council Resolution 687 affirms that releasing Iraqi assets does not violate Security Council resolutions.

He called for unfreezing Iraqi assets in line with the spirit of the resolution, as well as out of humanitarian considerations, considering that 18 million Iraqis have been suffering for more than 22 months.

He added that the continued unjust blockade on the people of Iraq is the ugliest violation of human rights. Those who insist on maintaining it have political and conspiratorial motivations against steadfast Iraq, after they were alarmed by Iraq's achievements and the stalwart Iraqis' rallying around the banner of victorious leader struggler President Saddam Husayn.

Daily Comments on Abu Musa Affair

JN1909093892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Iran put the Gulf region and all Arabs in a tight corner when it officially declared its annexation of the three Arab islands [Abu Musa, and Greater and Lesser Tunb].

The paper, in an editorial published today, expresses the belief that the Iranian-Gulf crisis will not end amicably this time by way of a reconciliation to the satisfaction of both sides or through compromise solutions, adding that this situation could be the prelude to new large-scale friction between Iran and the Arabs.

The paper refers to statements made by Tehran to the effect that its annexation of the islands is irreversible and that Iran has historical claims to Bahrain and Iraq, saying that Iran is waging this annexation battle under the slogan of fighting U.S.-British imperialism. In the course of this battle, the paper notes, Iran is also accusing Washington and London of creating an anti-Iran climate in the Gulf region.

AL-JUMHURIYAH analyzes the positions and views of the two parties to the conflict over the three islands, as well as the Western role in the conflict, saying: If Iran is sincere in its claims that it is facing a U.S. threat, then it is more

appropriate for it to officially and publicly demand an alliance with Iraq against a common enemy which wants to stay in the Gulf region.

Elaborating on this point, the paper adds: If the issue really concerns evicting Americans and Britons from the Gulf, then the Iranians undoubtedly have an historic opportunity for burying the hatchet and moving to reach an understanding with Iraq and forge an alliance with it to confront a common enemy that threatens both sides.

The paper also touches on the state of concern and fear marking the conduct of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and other Gulf countries, and also on their worries regarding Iran's annexation policy, saying that the current circumstances provide the Gulf countries with a unique historic opportunity to seek help from Iraq, which repulsed the Iranian danger posed to them over an eight-year period.

AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that if the UAE and other Gulf parties want to address a message to Iran, telling it that they are capable of confronting its covetousness, they have only to seek the assistance of Iraq, and nobody else but Iraq.

The paper advises all Gulf parties not to seek the help of any party, be it Arab or foreign, other than Iraq, since such parties could only be concerned with achieving reconciliation.

Elaborating on this point, the paper says: Nobody knows what kind of deal the foreigners concluded with the Iranians to make Tehran fearlessly declare its annexation policy and treat its neighbors so disdainfully and contemptuously.

The paper notes the treaties and agreements the Gulf states concluded with Washington and its allies, and wonders: Where is the United States? Why have Washington and London chosen to remain idle with regard to the official Iranian annexation practices? Why have they chosen not to react to the declaration of intentions made by Iran regarding the annexation of new territory, particularly since they mobilized the resources of 40 [as received] countries to fight Iraq under the guise of liberating Kuwait?

AL-JUMHURIYAH underscores the seriousness of the objectives inherent in the annexation of the three islands, of the repercussions of the issue, of the threats directed at Bahrain, and also of Tehran's claims that Iran is facing a U.S. threat, saying: Those who became Iraq's adversaries in the past and differed among one another must now think of Baghdad if they realize the consequences of these developments.

The paper affirms that Iraq has always been, and will always remain, a hard figure as well as a party that is capable of restoring balance and maintaining security in the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula.

Concluding its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Any event that takes place on the perimeters of the Gulf of al-Basrah [khalij al-basrah] up to the Diego Garcia islands is an issue that concerns Iraq, and one which Iraq can influence positively to prevent anybody from oppressing the Gulf population.

Daily Warns of Iranian 'Ambitions' in Iraq

JN2109082492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0652 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said that the Iranian regime has revived its dreams and ambitions in Iraq and is seeking once again to make Iraq a Persian estate, forgetting that its wounds are still fresh.

In an article today, the paper says that the Iranians have a sick imagination that makes them believe that Iraq is weak and that the new international situation is an opportunity for them to do whatever they want, considering the tempting promises and the chaos currently prevailing in Islamic states.

The paper likens the Iranian regime to someone who proceeds toward his own doom willingly and who only blames fate for his misfortunes and bad luck.

The paper adds that the current international situation is not going to help Iran make its dreams come true in the future, since this international situation, notwithstanding all its corruption and foulness, will never accommodate Iranian dreams. Nor will it ever accommodate the very existence of Iran.

The paper concludes: The authorities in Iran have dedicated their lives to one goal; namely, taking revenge against Iraq. This goal, however, will be thwarted not through vindictiveness, which brings about one's doom, nor through the international situation, which is seeking a new kind of corruption, but through Iraqi steadfastness, since Saddam Husayn is the symbol of its independence, pride, and courage.

Omani Sultan Sends Congratulatory Cable

JN2109111992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from his brother Sultan of Oman Qabus Bin-Sa'id on the occasion of Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

Here is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq: With due appreciation, we have received your congratulations on the occasion of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him.

While congratulating you on this cherished occasion, we pray to God Almighty to grant you good health and long life and to grant the people of your country more progress. We beseech God Almighty to enable you, the fraternal Iraqi people, and the Islamic nation to celebrate this occasion again while enjoying loftiness and prosperity.

[Signed] Your brother, Sultan of Oman Qabus Bin-Sa'id

Al-Sahhaf Receives Russian 'Nationalist' Group

JN1809201792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf this evening received a delegation of Russian nationalist forces led by Mrs. Saji Omlatova [name as received], currently visiting Iraq.

The minister told them that the great Iraqi people, being solidly united behind their historic leader President Saddam Husayn, are capable of defeating U.S. and allied-authored conspiracies. These conspiracies, he added, are designed to force on the Arab nation acquiescence to repulsive colonialist policies and to loot Arab resources and meddle in Iraq's internal affairs.

The minister hoped further contacts will be held with Russian nationalists to tighten the historical ties between the two countries.

Mrs. Saji hailed the steadfastness of Iraq led by President Saddam Husayn and the holding of ground against American injustice and aggression. She emphasized that Russian nationalist forces will do all in their power to extend support to the people of Iraq and to champion their legitimate causes. Russian nationalist forces and all peoples around the world view the adherance of the Saddam-led Iraqi people to principles of right, justice, sovereignty, and free will as a heroic model worthy of emulation, she said.

Vice President Receives Algerian Party Chief

JN2009142192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has received Mohamed Benkammouh [name as received], leader of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development.

He stressed that the Arab nation is represented by its sincere leaders, presidents, and strugglers, and not by the agent and lackey Arab rulers who implement the policies of the Americans and the Zionists to harm the Arab nation's existence and future.

The vice president said the growing popular revolutionary current in all Arab countries has surprised the American aggressors and their allies and slaves. He pointed out that the immortal Mother of Battles has exposed the methods of deception and aggression pursued by the United States, the enemy of the Arabs and all peoples.

The leader of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development asserted that struggler President Saddam Husayn epitomizes the Arab leader as one whose courageous leadership is followed by the Arab masses that have faith in their strength and future. He said that great Iraq, with its strong people who are in cohesion with their leadership, will remain the revolutionary vanguard of all Arabs and the center of their valiant light and adherence to their sovereignty, dignity, and future.

Delegation Leaves for Montreal Aviation Meetings

JN2109075892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—Engineer Aysar Yunus al-Safi, director general of Iraqi civil aviation, has left for Montreal, Canada, leading a delegation to take part in the two-week meetings of the 29th session of the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO] General Assembly, which are due to start on Wednesday [23 September].

The Iraqi delegation will present a working paper asking the General Assembly to endorse Iraq's legitimate right to use its airports and technical agencies to serve civilian air traffic. The paper will also call for lifting the air ban imposed on Iraq and returning the planes of Iraqi Airways to the country for maintenance.

Defense Minister Addresses Meetings in Ninawa

JN2009202392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and defense minister, has hailed the great sacrifices of the people of Ninawa Governorate in the heroic battles waged by the Iraqis against the forces of infidelism and aggression, which aim to strike at Iraq and its proud people.

Al-Majid was addressing a large rally in Mosul attended by chieftains and members of the Arab and Kurdish tribes, Muslim and Christian clergymen, the heads of professional and mass organizations, and in the presence of comrade Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz, member of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Ba'th Party organization in the north, and Ninawa Governor 'Abd al-Jawad Dhannun.

Al-Majid said: We proudly meet today at an important turning point in the life of the Arab nation and Iraq to remember what has happened and what we should do to confront our enemy with faithful hearts, relying on God and on the great men of Iraq.

Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid said: The enemies have tried several times to undermine the sovereignty of Iraq and the Iraqis, but they have despaired in their mean attempts when the Iraqis proved that they are tested swords, thanks to their heroic stand in Saddam's al-Qadisiyah battle [Iran-Iraq war] and the immortal Mother of Battles to defend great Iraq's soil, wealth, and resources.

Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister, conveyed greetings from President Leader Saddam Husayn to the sons of Ninawa, and his wishes for their permanent triumph. The participants in the rally renewed their absolute pledge to President Saddam Husayn that they will continue to be sincere to their principles and to the dear homeland's soil.

The rally was attended by the secretary generals of the leaderships of the Ba'th Party branches in Ninawa, Dahuk, and Mosul, and officials in the governorate.

Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister, also met in the Ba'th Party Branch in Ninawa with senior party cadres from the leaderships of the Ninawa and Mosul branches of the Ba'th Party in the presence of Comrade Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Husayn, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the party organizations in the north, and Ninawa Governor 'Abd-al-Jawad Dhannun.

In the meeting, Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid said that our humanitarian task, given the current circumstances, is to be in the service of our people because the Iraqis have become bright symbols in their fighting against tyranny and aggression, as well as their rejection of all the devious means by which the enemies of God wanted to subjugate our people. He said that our existence is a great victory from God against the evil forces, which have built all their technology and gathered all of their resources to destroy and annihilate humanity. Therefore, we should not forget the trust that has been placed in us, the party strugglers who belong to the Iraqis, by meeting our responsibilities toward our land and people. We must be alert to all the enemy machinations and intrigues.

The meeting was attended by the secretary generals of the leaderships of the Ba'th Party branches in Ninawa, Dahuk, and Mosul, and the military secretary of the 'Ammuriyah Ba'th party branch leadership.

The party cadres pledged to President leader Saddam Husayn that they will continue their efforts and great sacrifices for the sake of Iraq's glory and pride.

Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister, also met with the heads of the departments of services and administration in Ninawa Governorate. He affirmed the importance of continuing the exceptional efforts to raise the standard of services extended to the people of the governorates, to embody high values, and to understand the contents of President Saddam Husayn's 12 August letter to the Iraqi people and its translation into reality to make it a daily mode of action.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Husayn, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the party organizations in the north; Ninawa Governor 'Abd-al-Jawad Dhannun; and the secretary generals of the Ninawa and Mosul branches of the Ba'th Party leadership.

Finance Minister on Economic Recovery, Growth

JN2009151092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn has affirmed that the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq has enabled the Iraqi economy to make big strides in development and growth, to achieve a great deal of self-reliance, and to rid itself of the harmful consequences of its near-complete dependence on oil revenues.

In a comprehensive statement regarding the economic situation, the minister said: The agricultural sector has made great progress, and so did the industrial and technological resources. The construction sector has also made amazing progress. Among the most prominent sectors to have achieved, and continue achieving, the Iraqi miracle in this age are the sectors in which work is performed by the strugglers of the Military Industrialization Organization and the struggling ministries providing support to that organization.

The finance minister referred to the warning voiced by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, at the beginning of the Iranian aggression against Iraq. He said: His excellency said then that those enemies will regret their quest to prolong the war, because Iraq will turn the equation upside down and its power will increase more and more as battles extend and grow tougher. Indeed, the leader president's statement proved to be true.

The minister added: Today we face a similar situation. The prolonging of the blockade will result in good fortune for the people of Iraq and regret and grief for its enemies. Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has said that Iraqi oil is only part of Iraq's wealth, and not all its wealth. Iraq now has clear resources, as well as other potential resources which will emerge as soon as the blockade ends and erodes. There are substantial mineral resources in Iraq, which can provide the basic elements for heavy export industries. In a few years, these resources will make Iraq a country with a great surplus in its balance of trade, particularly if we take into account the fact that Iraq has the second largest oil reserves in the world. The great surplus in the Iraqi balance of trade, which must be achieved within the next few years, will make the Iraqi dinar a benchmark for Middle Eastern currency because of its high value with the IMF. Therefore, Iraq adheres to its currency and its official exchange rate, which reflects Iraq's huge economic potential.

The minister stressed that the Iraqi economy has moved a step up in the classification of economic growth.

Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn concluded his statement by saying: Iraq, led by the beloved of the people, Saddam Husayn, is breaking all links in the conspiracy hatched by the enemies. We are fully confident that the strong Iraqi economy will provide one of the factors for victory, bolster the march of the nation, and achieve prosperity for the people.

Reconstruction of 97 War-Damaged Bridges Reported

JN1909150892 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 19, INA—As part of the nation-wide reconstructions drive, Iraqi engineers and technicians have rebuilt some 97 out of 133 bridges damaged by allied air and missile attacks during the U.S.-led military aggression against Iraq, said a source at the Higher Committee of Reconstruction on Monday, a report published in the Iraqi English language daily says.

The source added that reconstruction work on these bridges was carried out by engineers and technicians of the Military

Industry Commission of Housing and Construction, Agriculture and Irrigation, Industry and minerals and transport and communications.

The source went on to say that reconstruction work covered some 40 concrete bridges, 17 steel ones in addition to 26 pontoon and 11 railway bridges, adding that work also covered the reconstruction of three irrigation regulators and the building of 43 bridges to replace damaged bridges and facilitate traffic and ease bottlenecks.

Meanwhile, al-Anfal contracting company of the Ministry of Housing and Construction has rebuilt 26 bridges in the southern part of Iraq, said a source at the company.

Director of the company, told a local daily that the staff of the company have rebuilt 14 bridges in al-Basrah Province.

Most important, engineers and technicians of al-Anfal company have executed one of the biggest pontoon bridges in Iraq. It is Qarmat 'Ali dual carriage-way pontoon bridge. Qarmat 'Ali is one of the longest bridges in Iraq. It is a 245-metre-long and 7.5-metre-wide bridge built across the Shatt al-'Arab.

The company has also rebuilt upper bridge on kilo 532 over al-Basrah-Safwan motorway and the upper bridge on kilo 552 on Safwan motorway junction, the staff have also repaired damage inflicted upon the secondary bridges on kilo 5.la kilo 504 and upper bridgeon kilo 433 on al-Rumaylah-al-Nasiriyah motorway.

In Dhi Qar Province, the company executed five bridges. The 180-metre-long al-Nasiriyah bridge is a very important link in the area which could stand vehicles with a load of 50 tonnes.

Moreover, the companny's staff rebuilt three bridges in al-Muthanna Province.

In al-Qadisiyah Prince, the company executed al-Mishkhab [name as received] and al-Qadisiyah pontoon bridges.

The company's staff are currently engaged in a round-the-clock work to rebuild al-Qurnah dual-carriage-way concrete bridge across the Euphrates River on al-Basrah-al-'Amarah motorway, and work on the 360-metre-long bridge coincided with work to rebuild 210-metre-long al-Qurnah steel bridge on al-Basrah-al-al-'Amarah motoway on the Euphrates.

In the meantime, work now is in progress to construct four bridges to the bridges to the west of al-Qurnah on the main way of the northern al-Rumaylah oilfields.

Al-Anfar contracting company has so far executed some 32 bridges in different parts of the country including 16 pontoon bridges, ten steel ones and six concrete bridges at a total cost of 13,653 million Iraqi dinars. The company's staff have also built a number of roads in Baghdad, al-Basrah Salah-al-Din and Ninawah provinces at a cost of eight million dinars.

Meanwhile, Taj al-Ma'arik company of the Ministry of Housing and Construction has recently started work to repair a railway bridge on al-Wirrar [name as received] regulator in al-Ramadi city, al-anbar Province.

Euphrates Diverted South of al-Nasiriyah

JN2009134092 Baghdad INA in English 1305 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 20, INA—Engineers and technicians of al- Faw Department of the Military Industry Commission have completed work on the project of diverting the course of the Euphrates River in the provincial city of al-Nasiriyah and installing a concrete barrage to let the water flow.

Head of the planning and follow-up office of the Irrigation Projects Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, said staff working in the central section of the third river have exerted extraordinary efforts to divert the Euphrates course south of al-Nasiriyah in order to secure the flow of water into the third river.

He added that work on the project required the installment of a concrete barrage and a pumping station to distribute the water. A canal has been also dug to help flow of water until the station is completed.

He went on to say that electric and mechanical work on the pumping station which is now under implementation covers the building of three gates, three emergency gates, two cranes that can lift a local [as received] of 30 tonnes and control sets for measuring, signs and telecommunications.

Because of the hardships ensuing from the on-going U.N.-imposed economic sanctions on Iraq and the difficulty of getting pumping units, he indicated, a study has been prepared to distribute part of the waters of the third river without resorting to the pumping station by building a canal around the station that is under construction. The canal is linked with the beginning of the siphon to secure the flow of the discharges of regulators of Dalmaj Lake, he added.

He added that the 300-metre-long temporary canal is extended from the right bank of the Euphrates River to the gasin of siphon entrance. [sentence as received] Work on the station includes digging some 150,000 cubic metres, erecting walls and base of enforced concrete provided with substances that prevent water seeping from the canal to the site of the pumping station or to the new course of the Euphrates along to the canal, he added.

The station has been designed to be of a capacity of 200 cubic metres per second across the siphon beneath the Euphrates, he added, stressing that the station consists of four pumping units of a discharge capacity of 13-25 cubic metres per second each, and eight others of a discharge capacity of 20 cubic metres per second each.

Industry Minister on New Water Pumping Stations

JN2009133092 Baghdad INA in English 1255 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 20, INA—A working team of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals is now engaged in installing power-operated water pumping stations for the first time in the country, Minister of Industry and Minerals 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di told AL-JUMHURIYAH daily yesterday.

Al-Sa'di added there is now a great need to store power on a capacity of 3,000 megawatts per hour to operate these pumps.

The idea of executing a project to store power was tackled by President Saddam Husayn's adviser, Dr. Ja'far Diya', in the conference of energy organised by the Ministry of Industry.

A team of Iraqi geologists in cooperation with the Ministry of Oil and the Military Industry Commission started work to survey three sites before executing the project.

Meanwhile, al-Sa'di said that electricity supply has witnessed a complete stability and work is underway to complete the first stage of a project to provide residential areas with electricity by the end of this year. The project costs 70 million Iraqi dinars.

'Huge Sums' Allocated for al-Basrah Services

JN2109114192 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Sep 92 p 1

[By Najihah Qazim and 'Abd-al-Halim Salih]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has said that representatives from all ministries are currently studying with the competent bodies in al-Basrah Governorate the health, educational, social, and cultural requirements in the al-Qurnah area.

In a statement to the Iraqi press, he said that an expanded meeting, chaired by al-Basrah governor, will be held this week. During the meeting, he said, the ministries concerned will discuss their proposals and means to implement projects in the area.

He added that the results of this meeting will be submitted to the Prime Ministry for discussion and will later be referred to leader President Saddam Husayn for approval of the funds needed for final implementation of the projects.

Al-Zubaydi said that huge sums have been earmarked for al-Basrah Governorate and the southern governorates to update services provided to the citizens in appreciation of the heroic stands of the sons of these governorates and the great meanings behind these stands. He noted that the Prime Ministry will follow this up centrally.

The prime minister said that the state bodies have adopted a policy of launching big campaigns to implement the projects through the mobilization of mechanisms and material and human potentials in certain working areas to minimize completion time and concentrate efforts to ensure a more efficient and better performance. He noted that such efforts and campaigns are carried out from one location to another throughout Iraq in order to accomplish projects within exceptional time and with minimum expense. [passage omitted]

No-Fly Zone Said To Increase People's 'Cohesion'

JN1909165892 Baghdad INA in English 1420 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Tunis, Sept. 19, INA—Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih stressed that the no-fly zone forced by America and its allies in south Iraq has increased cohesion of the Iraqi people and determination to defend their homeland.

In press statements published here today, the minister said that the Iraqi people in the south and particularly inhabitants of the marshes express everyday their readiness to defend the homeland and their allegiance to President Husayn and referred to this week's Arab women festival of solidarity with Iraq that was staged in the southern area.

He said that the reconstruction of what was destroyed by the war is considered a unique national experiment highlighting Iraq's swift advance to attain its objectives. He also cited the building of new projects in the fields of agriculture and industry that are going side by side with the reconstruction process.

Paper Urges Support for Public Sector

JN2109180492 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 19 Sep 92 p 2

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "There Is No Substitute for the Public Sector"]

[Text] We must admit the economic mistakes we made prior to the enforcement of the blockade. When the blockade was enforced on our country, we blamed the criminal blockade resolution—the passage of which was secured by the United States and the West—for all our economic ills.

Once we championed the public sector. But then we said that the private sector must be given prominence and be allowed to assume larger responsibilities. And when the privatization campaign was put into effect, several state installations, plants, factories, and farms were sold to the private sector. This happened over the past few years. As for the citizenry, they began to pay the price for this, in terms of their economic and social life. The situation was aggravated further by the blockade, the effect of which could have been less painful had it been enforced when the public sector was vigorous, active, effective, and at its best. As for the mixed sector, it suffices to have a look at the list of skyrocketing prices it set for the commodities it is producing in the name of confronting the blockade and safeguarding the citizens' interests. As for the citizen who is suffering from the conduct of both the private and mixed sectors, he finds himself between a rock and a hard place.

The class which came to be known as "nationalist bourgeois" in several countries was different in Iraq. The British colonial power and the reactionary royal governments did not endeavor to bring about a developed national industry in our country. Consequently, the comprador class, which promotes the goods and commodities produced by capitalist countries, gained prominence in Iraqi society. And when the republican regime was born in Iraq, political infighting as well as the conflict among political forces, which continued for many long years, did not encourage capitalists to invest their money in industry. As for the distorted nationalization campaign launched during the 'Arif rule in the sixties, it aggravated the capitalists' fears. Worse still, even though the principles and policies of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party are

clear with regard to giving the private sector a role in the economic process, which must be led by the public sector, the climate did not offer capitalists good incentives.

Merchants and middlemen have remained the active force in the economic and social life in Iraq. Thanks to the sweeping national development plans launched in our country, a large class of contractors emerged. New landlords reappeared in the former state farms. Indeed, these state farms should have been given to companies in accordance with five-year or 10-year investment contracts. When these state plantations were sold, the excuses advanced were that they were losing money. But, if we are to investigate the cause of the losses, we would find that these losses were caused by the fact that the farms were given to inefficient personnel, personnel who might not have believed in socialism in the first place. The cause of the losses was not the state's leading role in the country's economic life.

What remains to be said is that the takeover of the former state plants and factories by capitalists through purchase agreements has not fulfilled the state's wishes with regard to involving the private sector in building the country economically.

The society is currently paying the price for such an economic policy. As for the sanctions which have been in force for more than two years, they have also worsened the aggravated economic situation of the people.

There is no substitute for socialism and for the restoration by the public sector of its historic and national role in the life of the homeland and the citizen.

Exorbitant taxes must be imposed on merchants and similar sectors of society in return for the facilities offered them. Likewise, the policy which allows merchants to import commodities without foreign exchange must be reconsidered. As regards the reconstruction campaigns, they must be accompanied by other production processes aimed at producing economic returns. Furthermore, the means of combating bribery at state departments and institutions must be promoted. As for those who accept bribes and exploit people, they must be treated as enemies of the people and the homeland.

As leader Saddam Husayn affirmed, we need good managers rather than theoreticians. The chronic problem in Iraq is the abundance of theoreticians, be they simple citizens or people at the higher echelons of responsibility.

The affliction plaguing our great country nowadays is graver than military aggression. We must find a solution to the economic situation created by the blockade and the concomitant circumstances by way of involving all sectors of the population in a debate on this situation through their organizations, agencies, and political and economic figures, who are known for their patriotism and extensive knowledge with regard to economics and social development within the framework of a national congress that does not rule out the participation of any conscientious patriot, because the issues that concern the homeland are bound to concern all people.

In such an endeavor, we should not be concerned with a group of academic theoreticians who are assuming official responsibilities and offering us ready-made ideas and proposals whose soundness is yet to be proven. What we want is to look for solutions, based on a proper examination of the social factors affecting people's lives. Such solutions must also reflect regional and international political and economic developments.

Peres Discusses Peace, Arab Boycott With EC

TA2209063292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the Syrians must clarify their understanding of peace during the negotiations over the Golan Heights. Peres made the statement during a meeting with EC foreign ministers attending the UN General Assembly in New York.

Peres said Israel would not allow the Palestinians to evade an interim settlement again.

The foreign minister called on the EC to help bring about a stable Middle East and to put an end to the Arab trade boycott of Israel. [Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 22 September in a related report by Washington-based correspondent Arye Golan on Jerusalem adds: "The EC foreign ministers promised to make a formal appeal to the Arab countries to revoke the boycott of Israel and reiterated the old promise, once given to former Foreign Minister David Levi, to launch immediate discussions with Israel on its incorporation in the European economic space."]

Arab Democratic Party Leader To Meet 'Arafat

TA2109132892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah will head an Arab Democratic Party delegation to meet PLO head Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis at the beginning of next month. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Darawshah already met 'Arafat in Geneva about two weeks ago, where he received the invitation.

Goncz First Hungarian President To Visit Country

Welcomed by Herzog

TA2009113692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] The president of Hungary, Arpad Goncz, has arrived to begin a four-day official visit. During his stay, he will meet with Israeli leaders and lay a wreath at the grave of the founder of the state, Theodor Herzl.

A short time ago, an official reception was held at the Rose Garden opposite the Knesset. Steve Linde reports:

[Begin recording] [Linde] In his welcoming speech after the playing of the Hungarian national anthem, President Hayim Herzog pointed out that this is the first visit to Israel of a Hungarian president.

[Herzog] The Jewish people and the Hungarian people share a long history composed of chapters of tolerance and coexistence, but also of tragic times of persecution and discrimination, which reached their height during World War II.

My visit to Hungary last year served as a bridge of openness and understanding between our two countries. It gave me the opportunity to see a free Hungary, progressing resolutely forward on the path of social reform, while guarding human and minority rights. I am confident that the aspirations of the Hungarian people for democracy and prosperity will be crowned with success.

[Linde] The Hungarian president replied that he was delighted to be in Israel and he hoped his visit would lead to a strengthening of relations between Israel and Hungary.

[Goncz] Our delegation has come to Israel full of joy and expectation. On returning President Hayim Herzog's last year's visit, our mission is to further and reach the promising relations, which have developed so successfully up till now between the peoples of Hungary and Israel. I trust that our intentions will be reciprocated by Israel, too. [end recording]

Urges Avoiding Past Mistakes

TA2009190192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Hungarian President Arpad Goncz says his country will not permit dictatorial ideas and racism to emerge again. Goncz spoke on arrival in Israel for a four-day official visit, the first by a Hungarian president.

[Begin Goncz recording] Let us look into the future, but let us not forget the past even for a moment. The fascist dictatorship that entailed such great consequences for the whole of Hungary demanded terrible sacrifices from the Jews. There is and can be no responsible politician in Hungary, either in Parliament, or in the government, who would not agree that we can no longer give way to dictatorial ideas and regimes, to racism and genocide. It is a particular joy to me that I can voice this belief in the very city that gives the notion of peace in its name. This is precisely what I would like to wish you, you much-suffered people and country, as well as all the peoples of this region. [end recording]

Rabin Lauds Fight Against Anti-Semitism

TA2109192092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has thanked the visiting Hungarian President Arpad Goncz for his fight against anti-Semitism in his country. Speaking at a lunch meeting with Goncz, Rabin said Israel is concerned about the reemergence of anti-Semitism in Hungary, but is convinced that legal and educational means will be used to combat it.

Earlier today, the Hungarian president toured the Yad Vashem Holocaust Institute. He spoke to reporter Ya'el Ayalon about the visit through an interpreter.

[Goncz] I am very, very deeply moved. This must never be repeated. This place [words indistinct] a turning point for history.

[Ayalon] Do you expect any practical results, like agreement, in your visit in Israel?

[Goncz] On this occasion, on this trip, we are not going to sign any agreement. I am sure that there will be practical results, because this visit [words indistinct] deepening of relations. [end recording]

IDF Denies Creation of 'Peace Administration'

TA2109154592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman asserts that, contrary to press reports, the IDF has not established any peace administration. What the IDF has done is to make good on a decision made a few months ago to reinforce the ranks of the Planning Branch and the Intelligence Branch so that they may carry out the missions within their sphere of responsibility, which include the gathering of data, positions, and evaluations pertaining to the peace process.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe points out that, in this context, the Planning Branch's Strategy Department has been upgraded and turned into a division, while its chief has been promoted to brigadier general.

Rabin on POW's in Lebanon, Hizballah Activities

TA2209103592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he has received no new information about the fate of Ron Arad and the three POW's captured in Lebanon: Zekharya Baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Tzvi Feldman. He said that from time to time, new information is received and examined. He refused, however, to state whether the investigation is also being conducted through the Arab delegations to the peace negotiations. This was reported by our correspondent Yo'el Nir.

Emerging from today's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Rabin commented on last night's clash with terrorists in the security zone. He said Hizballah activities abated during the Lebanese elections and may resurge now, but we are prepared.

As for reports that Syria has been purchasing weapons of mass destruction, Rabin said that the arms race in the region will not stop as long as there is no peace. He noted that Israel is trying to take action in the United States and Europe toward a reduction of arms supply to the region but, in his words, it cannot be said that we have been successful.

Analyst on Military Worth of Golan Heights

TA1809172292 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 18 Sep 92 p 4

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "Security Calls For a Partial Withdrawal Only"]

[Text] From the security point of view, the Golan is not sacred. Yet as long as military threats (Syrian or other) from the east persist, our military presence in the area—at least in part of the Golan—is vital for the security of the whole of Israel.

Since the Golan was conquered in 1967, the Syrian Army's offensive capability has grown manifold. The Syrians have quite accurate surface-to-surface missiles, for which they have chemical warheads and which can reach every population center in Israel. Published data indicate that the Syrian Army alone has more tanks—more than 1,000 of them are modern T-72's—than all the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] armored divisions put together. Its artillery consists of hundreds of self-propelled guns; some of its surface-to-air missile batteries are mobile and can provide quite efficient air cover for an assault force.

Syria's domination of Lebanon and the numerous troops deployed there give the Syrian Army offensive maneuvering options against northern Israel that they have not possessed in the past. Once the United States eases its pressure on the Iraqis, Baghdad could send a couple of divisions to the Golan Heights within a few days. The Iranians, too, could enhance Syria's ability to strike at Israeli territory.

Hence, Israel's leaders can no longer be sure—as they were in the 1960's and 1970's—that in the event of a successful Syrian offensive they would be able to turn the tables through a no less successful counteroffensive.

Having said that, full peace with Syria, coupled with a full concession of the Golan, would significantly reduce the potential threat to Israel. Al-Asad, however, continues to procure and manufacture modern weapons systems and train his army for an attack concurrently with the peace talks. This being the situation, Israel's leaders must work on the assumption that the threat persists and might materialize.

Therefore, even in the case of full peace with Syria, the IDF must be able to repel a ground offensive from the north and the east before the enemy descends from the Golan Heights or reaches Metulla. Moreover, Israel must be able to thwart a massive onslaught of surface-to-surface missiles and bombers on its population centers.

The IDF needs Mt. Hermon, the steep knolls on the Golan Heights and the area to their west, to fulfill both these missions. Except for this narrow strip, ranging in width from 7 to 10 km, all the rest can be ceded, at least from the military point of view.

Mt. Hermon and the knolls are necessary, mainly for early warning and intelligence. Even when an Israeli surveillance satellite orbits over the Middle East, it will focus on long-range threats and will not supplant the electronic intelligence installations on the Golan. These provide not only early warning, but up-to-date intelligence about the deployment of the enemy's ground forces in the area. This intelligence is also vital in order to thwart a possible strike at Israel's population centers.

On the face of it, there would seem to be alternatives for the intelligence installations. For example, if the Americans agree to give us espionage, control, and early-warning aircraft, such as the AWACS the Saudis have, or the new J-Star surveillance planes which were first used in the Gulf war, we could definitely contemplate giving up our electronic observation posts. Purchasing such aircraft, however, and

keeping them in the air 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, would cost billions of dollars which are sorely missing from our Treasury's coffers.

In addition to that, these heavy surveillance aircraft would be easy prey for the Syrian long-range SA-5 missiles. Moreover, the AWACS could not replace artillery and other lookout posts which would command firing and aim it at the tanks charging westward toward Israeli territory.

Even if the Americans foot the bill for our intelligence and early warning needs, Israel must still find a way to curb armored troops from advancing from the east. A full demilitarization of the Golan from tanks, armored personnel carriers, artillery, and antiaircraft missiles could partially solve this problem. In that event, if the IDF realizes that the enemy is deploying against it in the east it could move toward the Golan Heights and seize vital areas.

As is known, however, the bulk of the IDF is made up of reserve units. These need more than a few hours to mobilize, get their act together, and start moving toward the Golan, particularly if the mobilization and equipment centers and the roads leading to the Golan are subject to a heavy barrage of missiles and aircraft. At that same time, the Syrian Army, which consists mostly of regular divisions, could advance and start gaining access to areas and roads leading to Israeli territory.

At that stage, only IDF helicopter gunships, jet fighters, and long-range weapons would be able to stop the masses of armored troops from advancing westward. Considering the force presently at its disposal, however, it is doubtful that the IDF could manage to complete this mission.

Consequently, even under conditions of absolute peace, a minimal armored force must be deployed on the Golan, behind deep antitank trenches and mine fields. Such a deployment need not resemble today's. To enable it to fulfill its mission, the IDF need only hold on to the outskirts of the Golan Heights, near the knolls area, and the riverbed of the al-Ruqqad in the south to prevent the tanks from moving toward Lake Tiberias.

As said, a total pullout from the Golan is out of the question until Syria's ability to attack us has undergone a radical change. One such change could be if Syria agrees to disarm half of its tanks, armored personnel carriers, self-propelled guns, and combat engineering units as well as move its surface-to-surface missiles to northern Syria, to an area from which they cannot be fired at Israel, and agrees to a full demilitarization of the Golan and south Lebanon from all heavy weaponry.

If the Syrians accept this proposal and agree to international supervision over the implementation of the agreement, Israel, from the military point of view, could not agree only to an absolute IDF pullout from the Golan Heights, but also to a concurrent demilitarization of the Hula Valley, the Jordan Valley, and the area east of Lake Tiberias, as al-Asad demands.

At the moment, however, the chances of al-Asad's agreeing to such a revolutionary deal are quite slim, and that is why Rabin cannot accept his demand to hand back the entire Golan to Syria.

Nevertheless, authoritative sources in Israel believe al-Asad will accept an agreement that upholds his honor. For example, he might agree to a continued Israeli presence on the Golan if Israel agrees to cede some territory now and to discuss additional concessions in the future. Hence, everything is still open.

Impact of French Maastricht Vote Assessed

TA2109144192 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Sep 92 p 9

[Editorial: "Israel and the European Union]

[Text] In a national referendum held yesterday the French voted in favor of Europe's monetary and political unification by endorsing the Maastricht Treaty by a tiny majority. Even a minuscule majority was enough.

The treaty was apparently received with mixed feelings. While the moderate right and left-wing factions supported it, the ranks of the unemployed and the farmers expressed fears that the local market would be swamped by cheap products and that agriculture would be harmed.

The right wing exploited the people's fear of losing their national identity, and their reluctance to give up their national currency, and expressed concern about the possibility that citizens from other European countries would be able to participate in local elections.

On the other hand, other circles that backed the treaty hope to maintain France's standing among European nations. The detractors reiterate their warnings about the tremendous power of the EC bureaucracy, which numbers approximately 15,000 people. This is something that could weaken the political leadership. In their assessment, a dictatorship of bureaucracy is in the making. This treaty would abolish the borders of the EC at the beginning of 1993.

Israel, for its part, should be interested in the welfare of Europe's economy, and the union helps with that. A rich Europe would facilitate increased Israeli exports to its countries, whereas European unemployment has a direct effect on Israel's economy.

It is hard to estimate the future German role in united Europe, and how it will be integrated in the union. Opinions are also divided on this issue in other European countries, and the results of the French referendum personify the fear in various countries of losing their economic and political uniqueness. Israel will have to adapt its economy to the new conditions, streamline its industry, and upgrade its products to meet the high standards of Europe. This is the only way it can find its place in the system as a productive, exporting country.

If Israel indeed gets the promised guarantees and invests most of the money in developing its industrial and agricultural infrastructure, it will be able to divert most of its

efforts to absorb the new immigrants in modern factories and eradicate the huge blight of unemployment, the legacy of the Shamir government.

The Maastricht Treaty for European union perhaps offers a clue how to overcome centuries of historic differences and rivalries and jointly strive for economic, financial, and social integration in order to coordinate positions, patch over ethnic or national differences, and create one front that will concentrate on promoting the general welfare of all its members.

Had the treaty been carefully perused in our own environs, and translated to Middle Eastern terms, with the participation of all the Arab countries, the Maastricht Treaty could have become a model for the Middle East as well.

The very fact that the treaty was approved constitutes a great victory for European unity, despite the narrow margin which underscores the degree of hesitancy among the French, and their difficulties in surmounting their separatist leanings.

Al-Husayni Comments on Peace Negotiations

TA1809141392 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Sep 92 p 3

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni by Mikhal Sela' at al-Husayni's East Jerusalem Institute for Arab Studies "last week"]

[Text] [Al-Husayni] Last month I attended the meeting of the negotiations steering committee, the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus, the nonaligned countries summit, and the meeting in Egypt of the heads of the Arab League. Everywhere I went, the Palestinian issue was raised and everywhere they supported the Palestinians' political rights. They all understand the sensitive issues—such as Jerusalem, which should be dealt with at a later stage—but everywhere I went people agreed that in Jerusalem, Israel should not change the status quo and should therefore stop construction.

[Sela'] Did al-Asad announce in the meeting in Damascus that this is the time for Syria to make progress?

[Al-Husayni] No, he did not say that it is time for the Palestinians to wait. We discussed the need to make progress on each front according to its individual pace. The important thing is that we should all reach the finish line at the same time. Progress on one front definitely encourages the Palestinians. The Palestinians' problem is that they are in the same boat with the Arab countries, only two steps lower. The Arab countries begin the negotiations with the need to implement UN Resolution 242, and the debate is over the interpretation. We, however, start from a preceding stage: self-government.

[Sela'] But did the Palestinians in Washington not demand discussion of 242 as well?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, but we are not demanding that the concept at the basis of the resolution be implemented at the current stage. We have agreed to establish an interim stage of self-government, the basis of which would be the resolution under discussion with the Arab countries. The way we see it, the talks held now are part of and preparation for discussions in the spirit of 242.

[Sela'] Do you see a difference between the current and the previous Israeli Governments?

[Al-Husayni] There is a change, but no tangible things have happened yet to indicate that the change was substantive. Shamir spoke of the occupied lands as part of a dogmatic concept and a belief in historical rights, while Rabin speaks of needing the territories for security reasons. This is a good start. I cannot argue with dogmatic beliefs, but I can face a claim that this or another piece of land is needed for security. I can challenge that and ask: Prove to me that it is important to you!

In practice I have not yet seen a difference between the two attitudes. Rabin wants to force the Palestinians to accept the same thing Shamir did, but is only using a different rationale. At the same time, at the starting line Rabin is better than Shamir. If he could find a way out of the circle designed by Shamir, we would have a good reason to continue the negotiations.

[Sela'] Many wonder why do the Palestinians not accept the Israeli offer: "Start with something small, and not lose it all?"

[Al-Husayni] I believe that there is a misconception of our position and situation in Israel. The framework of negotiations as determined in the invitation to the Madrid conference speaks of an interim stage that would lead to the next stage. The Palestinians want to build a 10-story building, while the Israelis may perhaps be willing to accept one floor. This we can debate. But we are not building floors yet, we are only laying foundations. We would like to lay foundations that could carry 10 floors. Even if we disagree on the number of floors, we have to agree that the foundations should carry something that is still open for negotiations. We want to lay the foundations of a state, while Israel is satisfied with foundations that could carry only self-government, and nothing else.

[Sela'] What are the raw materials for the foundations?

[Al-Husayni] The source of authority and legislation is one; the settlements, their status and their freeze—including in Jerusalem—are another.

We do not like the method of transfer of authorities that Israel is offering. We wanted to lay it all on the table. We have asked for basic information regarding our preparations for the assumption of the authorities, demographic data, details and sources of budget, meaning taxes. Why is all this kept hidden from us? This is definitely no secondary issue, as Israel claims. I need demographic data just to assume responsibility over the health system because I have to plan health services according to the needs of the population.

Instead of placing all the cards, the details, on the table, Israel prefers to hold them close to its chest and give them to us one by one, slowly, slowly. This does not seem fair to us.

[Sela'] How can we remove this barrier of misunderstanding?

[Al-Husayni] First we have to remove several matters that were declared taboo: the ban on dealing with Jerusalem; the ban on incorporating PLO members and residents of the diaspora. Other than that, we are constantly trying to advance the talks. We keep presenting one position paper after another in every meeting, hoping that this time there would be a breakthrough. Nevertheless, each time the Israelis come with some irrelevant new thing.

[Sela'] Judging from the reports, it seems that there is a slight movement.

[Al-Husayni] If the report that Israel has agreed that the source of authority of the self-government council will be the Palestinian people, then this is a very important step forward. I do not have the full report as yet.

[Sela'] You spent weeks with Yasir 'Arafat, as a natural thing, and no Israeli element remarked about it. Is this not a change?

[Al-Husayni] Certainly, this is a positive change. I personally enjoyed his company. After all, we have known each other for 44 years. Despite the long period that we were cut off from each other, he has not changed much and we have a common language.

The press reports alleging that we have disagreements are not true. 'Arafat has no objection to the establishment of a police force that would deal with internal security during the transitional period. He believes that the transfer of power from Israel to this police force should be made through a third party. Our disagreements are not beyond the normal human level.

More Gestures Toward Inhabitants of Territories

TA2109171792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs has decided on yet another series of gestures toward the inhabitants of the territories. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that it was decided to shorten the length of time a person may be held in custody without a warrant until he is brought before a military judge. The detention of minors and adults suspected of having participated in disturbances that did not result in any casualties will be shortened to eight days, instead of the 18 days so far. Within three months, the attorney general, the state attorney, the chief of staff, and the chief of the Shin Bet will examine the possibility of shortening the time suspected perpetrators of other crimes are held in custody.

Fourth Arrow Missile Trial Launch 'Soon'

TA2009104492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Sep 92 p A1

[Report by security affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] The fourth trial launch of the Arrow missile—the results of which will be decisive for the future of the missile's development—will be held soon. In the test, a single missile will be fired from a ship off the Israeli shores.

The launch is supposed to examine the various systems of the missile and mainly to find out whether the developers have managed to locate and correct the malfunctions that foiled the three previous launches.

Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said last week that the success of this launch, and perhaps also of the one to follow it, will determine the future of the project. Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, who was in office when the project first started, has expressed his support for the continued development of the missile as another layer in the defense of the Israeli home front. [passage omitted]

Abu-Jabir Previews UNGA Meeting

JN2009163992 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has said that the foreign ministers of the Arab parties participating in the peace process will meet in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings, which began there on 15 September.

This came in a statement today by Dr. Abu-Jabir to our political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab before the foreign minister left Amman at the head of Jordan's delegation to the UN meetings.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Jabir] In our speech, we will concentrate on issues that concern Jordan in particular, and of course the Palestine question, as well as other issues dealing with the Middle East; disarmament; the peace process; the current situation in the Middle East; a review of these issues, and then we will present some solutions and ideas concerning them.

[Dhiyab] Most statements made by heads of Arab delegations to the Arab-Israeli talks say that the negotiations are currently facing a dilemma. What do you, as foreign minister, have to say about this?

[Abu-Jabir] Perhaps there is some stalemate on certain points, but we believe that it should be emphasized that this process is a long, difficult, complex, and thorny one. It is illogical to expect that the problems and the issues—we are speaking about basic issues, we speak about Jerusalem, about the occupied Arab territories, Jordanian lands, the Golan, southern Lebanon; we speak about very important issues—therefore, some difficulties are to be expected.

[Dhiyab] What is the official Jordanian position concerning the Abu Musa Island dispute between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran, and how does Jordan think this issue should be resolved?

[Abu-Jabir] Jordan's position on this issue is a principled one. There is no question about the Jordanian position. We hope that this issue will be solved in a fraternal manner that guarantees the rights of the concerned parties. As you know, we stood by the UAE in the Arab League. Jordan's position is not at all affected by emotions or the overall confusion in the Arab atmosphere. Our position is always based on full and comprehensive support for our Arab brothers in all their just causes. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Comments on Relations With Egypt

NC2009163992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1428 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir has described Egyptian-Jordanian relations as improving, especially following President Husni Mubarak's telephone call to inquire about Jordanian Monarch King Husayn's health.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I newspaper published today, Abu-Jabir said the Egyptian and Jordanian Governments currently are working to eliminate remaining sources of estrangement and achieve some closeness between the two countries.

He added that relations soon will progress greatly and return to normal. He said they [the Jordanian Government] hope relations with Egypt will return to normal and that Egypt will initiate large-scale Arab action to bridge the gap and establish comprehensive Arab reconciliation. We will support all the steps older sister Egypt takes in this direction because we expect a great deal from her under the wise leadership of President Husni Mubarak.

Abu-Jabir denied that there currently are anti-Egyptian media campaigns. He said all the Jordanians, starting with King Husayn and the people, have great respect for Egypt's government and wise and alert leadership.

He said the Jordanian Government gives priority to Egyptian workers regarding jobs as part of organizing foreign labor in Jordan.

He added that he held talks with Egyptian officials on organizing labor and protecting the Egyptian workers' rights. We have compelled employers in Jordan to rectify the situation of Egyptian workers who work for them without contracts.

He said that regarding the transit issue, we have resolved this problem by forming a committee to look into facilitating the transportation of Egyptian goods crossing Jordan to Asia and Europe, in addition to facilitating the transport of Jordanian goods to North Africa.

Abu-Jabir said Jordan's position on the Gulf crisis did not support the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Our stand proceeded from three points, he said. The first was the need for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait; the second was the need to restore legitimacy to Kuwait; and the third was insistence on the need to look for a solution to the Gulf crisis within the Arab family. This last point was the issue of dispute.

He said that it is in no one's interest to divide Iraq because that would threaten the entire region and affect efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. We call for preserving Iraq's safety and territorial integrity, he said.

On the peace talks, Abu-Jabir said that the various stages the negotiations have overcome so far are the only beginning of an arduous journey which requires much time and effort. We are waiting, observing, and participating, but we cannot predict the results at this stage, he said. He said the idea of a confederacy between Jordan and Palestine is premature and that the important thing now is to settle all the problems of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He praised Syrian-Jordanian relations and described them as good, strong, and distinguished under all circumstances and events. He added that there is Syrian-Jordanian coordination within the framework of the cordon states.

Israel Urged To Join Nuclear Treaty

JN2109182492 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Jordan has urged all countries, including Israel, to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The call was made during the second meeting of the Arms Control and Security Committee, emanating from the multilateral talks, held in Moscow from 15-17 September.

Upon returning to Amman, Dr. 'Abdallah Tuqan, head of the Jordanian delegation to this meeting, spoke to our political affairs correspondent on what Jordan has proposed to the conferees:

[Begin recording] [Tuqan] Seven working papers were submitted at the meeting. These papers were presented by the European Community; India, for East Asia; the United States; and Russia. During the closed session, other subjects were discussed, including the spread of weapons of mass destruction, the possibility of ridding the region of weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons, and other issues concerning confidence-building in the region.

[Jordan Television correspondent 'Ali Salim Dhiyab] Dr. Tuqan, what role does Jordan play in this committee?

[Tuqan] The basis for Jordan's participation in the multilateral committees is the intrinsic link between progress in the bilateral talks and the talks within the multilateral committees. This is Jordan's firm political position, based on the comprehensive, legitimate view of a solution to the region's problems. Jordan stressed the need for all countries to join the treaties on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the need for Israel to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to place its nuclear facilities under the international inspection system. [end recording]

Political Parties Criticize Peace Talks

JN2209093492 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Sep 92 p 22

[Text] Amman—Eight Jordanian parties have issued a statement marking "the first anniversary of the Madrid march." In the statement, the parties warned against getting carried away by "the mirage of the alledged U.S.-Jewish peace." They called on the Palestinian people not to submit to any temptation or intimidation and stressed the importance of their adherence to their national unity and insistence on Palestinian constants.

The eight parties which signed the statement under the name of "the forces opposing surrender" urged forces of good in both the Arab and Islamic worlds to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and to seriously activate the role of the Palestinian intifadah.

The statement warned "all enlightened forces against the conspiracy of sowing discord among the people of the one nation, which ultimately aims at dividing the one state into a group of weak cantons."

The statement added that the negotiations have not made any progress while the Israeli entity has achieved many gains, including the U.S. loans deal, and that the occupation authorities managed to weaken the intifadah amid Arab silence.

The parties which signed the statement include the Muslim Brotherhood, the Arab Ba'th Party "the Unified Organization," the Ba'th Party in Jordan, the Arab Popular Liberation Movement, the Jordanian Revolutionary People's Party, the Arab Vanguard Movement, the Progressive Democratic Nationalists, and the Social Nationalists in Jordan. Several parliament members as well as political, nationalist, pan-Arab, and Islamic personalities also signed it.

Paper Says Israel Seeking Separate Deals in Talks

JN2209103092 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Sep 92 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "Will Israel Succeed in Achieving a Separate Solution!?]

[Text] As expected, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has paid lip service to the Arabs and did not make even a single move to activate and give momentum to the peace process, which remains without progress just as Shamir left it. Indeed, Rabin has adopted a more dangerous policy than Shamir's extremist policy as he tries his best now to divide the peace process and conclude separate deals.

Yitzhaq Rabin does not hide his desire to conclude a separate solution with Syria that would lead to the normalization of diplomatic, trade, and cultural relations without withdrawing from the entire Syrian Golan Heights.

Yitzhaq Rabin is jumping toward normalization with Syria in an attempt to skip stages. While Yitzhaq Rabin is in a hurry to arrive at a complete peace treaty with Syria, as he calls it, he is procrastinating with the other fronts and is not interested in reaching a solution with them.

This confirms that Israel is trying to reach a separate solution with Syria to get out of the circle of the Arab-Zionist conflict, similar to its Camp David agreements with Egypt.

If Israel actually succeeds in achieving its goal, then the region, as Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said, will witness serious developments and everyone will be harmed.

What calls for attention is that Syria is demanding an expeditious U.S. intervention to break the Israeli intransigence and is saying that it will not give up a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. This Syrian stand should stop the Israeli thrust to conclude separate peace agreements.

What is important is to continue serious and responsible coordination among the Arab cordon states.

Reports about an upcoming meeting for the cordon states in Damascus to confirm the constants of the Arab stand is a responsible step showing alertness and awareness of the objectives behind this serious Israeli trend.

It is important for Rabin's government to realize the impossibility of concluding separate agreements and dividing the peace process regardless of how much it maneuvers and prevaricates.

Iraqi Minister Urges Merchants Into Iraqi Markets

JN1909071392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Sep 92 p 3

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—An Iraqi minister has called on Jordanian businessmen to step directly into the Iraqi market in the latest bid by Baghdad to break the impasse in the flow of foodstuffs from Jordan, traders said Friday.

The call was made during a two-hour meeting Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih held with a group of 25 Jordanian businessmen who were also told that they had "nothing to fear" from the Iraqi crackdown on "unfair profiteering by Iraqi merchants," one of the participants said.

Mr. Salih, making an overnight stop in Amman on his way home from Tunisia where he attended a meeting, said that "the Iraqi market was open for Jordanian businessmen and that they should increase their activities there so that the Iraqi people get their basic daily needs," said the participant, who preferred anonymity.

"(The minister) said that only merchants who repeatedly violated government directives and sought to make massive profits by hiking prices were being punished," said the participant, a leading importer of canned foodstuffs.

Mr. Salih hinted that "relaxed rules and regulations" could be offered to Jordanian businessmen to facilitate their entry to the Iraqi market and "fill the vacuum left by the suspension of activities by Iraqi traders," he added.

Jordan was Iraq's main lifeline for foodstuff and medicine until late July when Baghdad launched a crackdown on merchants in a bid to control sky-rocketing prices. At least 42 Iraqi merchants accused of profiteering were executed.

The executions backfired on the flow of goods from Iraq; Iraqi businessmen, who used to buy foodstuff and truck them to Iraq from the Kingdom's free zones, immediately suspended their activities for fear for their lives.

According to Jordanian businessmen, the daily volume of goods shipped across the border to Iraq has declined to 30 per cent of the pre-execution levels.

"An average of 6,000 tonnes of various items were being shipped every day before the executions," said a trader. "Now, the volume is less than 2,000 tonnes, and most buyers are acting on behalf of the Iraqi government."

During Friday's meeting, which was attended by three representatives of the Jordanian Chamber of Commerce, the businessmen cited the instability and unpredictable fluctuations of the Iraqi dinar as another major reason that was dissuading many from buying and trucking goods to Iraq.

"No trader is willing to buy in Jordan applying an exchange rate of 24 Iraqi dinars to the dollar only to find that the rate applicable in the Iraqi market is 40 or 45," said the general manager of a prominent Jordanian company which used to ship up to 300 tonnes of foodstuff to Iraq every day.

"Essentially, it is a problem that the Iraqi government should solve," he said. "Unless they adopt clear and concrete measures to stabilise the dinar, nobody would like to do business with Iraq," he added. "This is what we told the Iraqi minister this morning."

Few of the participants in the meeting appeared willing to take up the minister's offer to open the Iraqi market for Jordanian traders, the businessmen said.

"Regardless of the assurances given by the government, we do not feel comfortable about venturing into the Iraqi market," said a wholsale grain dealer in Amman. "After all, there is very little we can do if the government tomorrow orders a freeze in prices of some of our items and imposes a ceiling below our cost price."

According to chamber of commerce officials, almost all Jordanian traders preferred to sell their goods to Iraqi merchants at the Kingdom's free zones rather than getting into the Iraqi market themselves.

A prominent Iraqi businessman who is believed to be using Iraqi government funds to procure foodstuff and medicine said that his country did not have "strategic reserves" of food and that unless the impasse in the flow of goods from Jordan was resolved soon, Iraqis "could face serious difficulties and higher prices."

Mr. Salih's meeting in Amman was the latest Iraqi government effort to restore traders's confidence and reassure them that the executions were a one-time affair which would not be repeated. But Iraqi businessmen are lukewarm to the overtures.

The meeting, held at the Amman Plaza hotel, only involved Jordanian foodstuff merchants at the request of the minister, the sources told the JORDAN TIMES.

"It was clear that the minister was focusing all his efforts on foodstuff supplies and did not raise any other point during the meeting," said one source.

According to diplomats, all of whom spoke on condition of anonymity, the Iraqi government is now paying a flat charge of $100 for every truck entering central Iraq from Kurdish-controlled territories in the north carrying mostly Turkish products.

"The money is actually collected by Kurdish rebel groups which have set up checkpoints on the fringes of their territory," said one source.

PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abbas Arrives

JN1909095192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Sep 92 p 32

[Text] Dr. Mahmud 'Abbas, head of the pan-Arab department and member of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Amman last night.

A responsible Palestinian source told AL-RA'Y that Dr. 'Abbas will meet with a number of ranking Jordanian Government officials during his visit.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN1909190092 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir today met with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas at the prime minister's office. Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir and Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for Cabinet affairs, also attended. The conferees discussed Arab relations and their positive developments, which move in the direction of clearing the air and healing the existing rift at this critical phase in our Arab history. They also reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, out of their concern for the Palestinian and Arab rights in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. They stressed the need to apply in full the land for peace formula and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The meeting was also attended by al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the State of Palestine to Jordan.

Following the meeting, Mahmud 'Abbas spoke to our political affairs correspondence.

[Begin recording] [Jordan Television Correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab] Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] have you seen the details of the third week of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations?

['Abbas] Yes, certainly. We have seen the results and details of these negotiations, which, we can say, have not achieved any substantial progress so far. We hope the fourth week will be more fruitful than the previous weeks, in which only nonsubstantive issues were discussed.

[Dhiyab] Sir, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has stated that the Palestinians do not object to a second party during the transitional phase, that is during the legislative elections. How do you react, and which is that second party?

['Abbas] I have not heard such a statement by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. As for legislative issues related to the elections, we insist that the elected Palestinian council have legislative powers within the framework of the powers it will assume during the transitional phase.

[Unidentified reporter] What subjects did you discuss with the prime minister?

['Abbas] We discussed such issues. We discussed the negotiations and their results, the topics that will be discussed in the next round of talks on Monday, some other bilateral issues, and the outcome of my visit to Moscow, where I met with the Russian foreign minister. We also talked about the role played by the Russian sponsor in the peace process and the possibility of activating that role—since I have noted a Russian desire to activate the Russian role in the peace process—something which will be to the advantage of all Arab parties. [end recording]

Concludes Visit

JN2009165092 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Palestine Liberation Organization's Executive Committee Member Mr. Mahmud 'Abbas left Amman at noon today at the end of a several-day visit.

During his stay, Mr. 'Abbas was received by the prime minister and held talks with the foreign minister on inter-Arab relations and latest developments of the Mideast peace process.

Plan To Disarm Hizballah Reportedly Underway

PM2109140592 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Sep 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Plan To Disarm Hizballah"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, Paris—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from well-informed Lebanese sources that a few days ago the Lebanese and Syrian military leaderships started to prepare a practical plan to disarm Hizballah in the southern suburb of Beirut and other Lebanese areas, provided that this plan forms part of a comprehensive plan to strip all the Lebanese militias of their light weapons and the concealed heavy weapons which they still have not handed over to the state.

The sources said that preparation of this plan is in response to a recently repeated request from the U.S. Administration. It calls for completing the process of disarming the Lebanese militias, "in particular Hizballah."

The sources added: Until that step takes place, another practical plan will be prepared after 15 October, the date when the new Chamber of Deputies will assume its duties. It provides for the Syrian forces' redeployment in the approaches to the west al-Biqa' in Hammana, al-Mudaryrij, and 'Ayn Darah. [passage omitted]

Army, Syrians Plan To Seize Kurdish Camp

PM2109134192 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Sep 92 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Army Command To Seize Kurdish Camp Soon"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—It has been learned from security sources that within a week the Lebanese Army command, in coordination with the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon, will seize the Kurdish Workers Party training camp in the town of Hulwah in western al-Biqa' in an attempt "to prevent the party's activities and prevent its fighters from proceeding from Lebanon to the Syrian-Turkish borders to carry out military operations in Turkish territory against the Turkish Government."

The camp contains Kurds of various nationalities. It is worth noting that Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah is currently on a visit to Turkey.

Al-Sulh on Water Rights, Palestinians, Economy

NC2109052692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh reaffirmed Lebanon's refusal to give up one single drop of Lebanese water to Israel, noting that the government intends to exploit its water resources and keep them purely Lebanese.

rime Minister al-Sulh also reaffirmed Lebanon's rejection f the resettlement of Palestinians in Lebanon, noting that le Lebanese Government has already rejected this idea and ill maintain its rejection.

i an interview with Lebanon Television, the prime minter explained that the negotiations in Washington between ebanon and Israel are still at the beginning stage. He said lat the Israeli enemy proposed at the last meeting the rmation of a joint military committee to discuss the curity situation. But the Lebanese delegation rejected this toposal, because the truce agreement signed in Rhodes in 49 provided for the establishment of a truce supervision mmission.

egarding the economy, al-Sulh said that the situation with e treasury and the Lebanese currency is improving noticely. This does not mean that the government does not have mmitments or duties. We have a duty to deal with the sue of school fees, especially since we are at the beginning the school year, he said. He noted that the government gan dealing with this issue at the cabinet meeting last ek, which was devoted to tackling economic issues. He id: We will continue our discussions on these issues at the ginning of next week to adopt measures to ease the rden.

izballah: U.S., Israel Fear 'Islamic Revival'

C2109064492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Sep 92

[ext] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli [member of Hizballah's litical Bureau] has said that the peace sought by America d Israel aims at humiliating and subjugating nations, not lping them.

eaking at the inauguration of a new school in Mashgharah sterday, Shaykh al-Tufayli said the United States and lael fear the spread of Islamic revival to every part of the lamic world. America and Israel do not want to see uslims uniting to defend their interests in the face of rogant designs.

ncerning the situation in Lebanon, al-Tufayli said: Those o failed to reach their goals through the civil war are ging closer links with America and Israel in a bid to hieve the same objectives. These same people wish to rtition the country in order to rehabilitate their shattered rld.

sh With Israeli Troops in South Reported

2209075192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 15 GMT 22 Sep 92

[ext] According to security information from the south, laeli troops clashed with gunmen northwest of Marj'uyun t night. Three gunmen were killed and an Israeli paratoper was slightly wounded. Israeli artillery shelling was ported in the area where the clash took place and Israeli licopters flew over the region throughout the night.

Defense Minister Reportedly Under House Arrest

JN2209112492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1049 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Tunis, 22 Sep (INA)—The Tunisian paper AL-SHURUQ reports that the head of the Syrian regime, Hafiz al-Asad, has placed his defense minister Mustafa Talas under house arrest.

In its issue today, AL-SHURUQ, citing well-informed Arab sources in Washington, says that Hafiz al-Asad has ordered Defense Minister Mustafa Talas to remain in his house and not to go to the Defense Ministry.

The paper says that this stand by the head of the Syrian regime comes in the wake of the negative stand by Mustafa Talas on the recent return of Rif'at al-Asad, brother of Hafiz al-Asad, to Damascus.

Israel Blamed for Lack of 'Tangible Progress'

JN1809154992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: After three weeks of talks in Washington, which were interrupted by a 10-day recess—during which the Israeli side held consultations with its government—the ongoing talks held within the framework of the sixth round failed to achieve any tangible progress. The peace process is still facing the same obstacle; namely, Israel's refusal to deal with the issue of withdrawal from the Golan and the occupied Arab territory or to implement the Security Council resolutions to this effect.

Despite the Syrian delegation's initiative represented by presenting proposals including the bases of the peace process and ways to render it a success; despite the whole world's commendation of these constructive proposals; and despite the admission of the Israeli side itself that they are constructive, Israel tried to bypass the Syrian proposals by presenting an ambiguous document in terms of content—a document that only includes a group of demands. When Israel found itself, under international pressure, compelled to discuss the Syrian proposals, which all observers unanimously agreed were integral and balanced and constituted a basis for a comprehensive and just peace on all fronts, the negotiating Israeli side refused one of the basic principles in these proposals; that is, withdrawal from the occupied territory. This prompted the Syrian delegation to leave the session of talks early to expose the reality of what is taking place to the whole world.

The Israel rulers reiterate their desire for peace on every occasion. However, they seek peace in name only. The real peace, sought by the region and the world, is the one that ends occupation, saves the Palestinian people from coercion and repression, allows this people to exercise its full rights, and allows all refugees and displaced persons to return to their homeland. Israel's rulers, however, do not want such peace. They deal with the issue of peace with the logic of trading, blackmailing, and bargaining; they try to divide the Arabs to bypass the sought comprehensive settlement on all fronts. They hint to this or that party that progress has been achieved with another Arab party and that peace is imminent. Meanwhile, there is no sign of progress on any front for a simple reason—the Israeli rulers' refusal to return the land to its owners in accordance with the Security Council resolutions.

The Syrian-Israeli talks, which faced ups and downs, were faced with the main obstacle; that is, the Israeli side's refusal to discuss the issue of withdrawal from the Golan within the framework of a comprehensive settlement. The Palestinian-Israeli talks are still revolving in a vicious circle. The Israeli side insists on rejecting the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and insists on administrative rule and phased withdrawals that practically entrench the authority of occupation and annul the Palestinians' right to a national legislative authority. The Lebanese-Israeli talks are also faced with the Israeli side refusal to implement Security Council Resolution 425 which calls on the Tel Aviv government to withdraw its forces immediately and without conditions from southern Lebanon.

On the various tracks of the talks, the Arab delegations found themselves in the face of endless series of Israeli demands and conditions. Meanwhile, the Israeli side refuses to discuss the Arab demands, particularly, the return of the land. In light of the continuation of the Israeli maneuvers, it becomes certain that the Tel Aviv rulers seek the Arabs' capitulation, not peace. They want to gain time, hoping that a change will occur in the United States, and consequently, they will rid themselves completely of the peace process.

The Arabs have shown enough concern for peace and given enough evidence of their desire to make peace that the world has appreciated this stand. Syria opened all doors for peace twice: The first time, when the Shamir government was on the verge of undermining international efforts; and the second time, when it presented the document of proposals and principles which was considered historic by everyone. Peace, however, cannot be achieved by one party. The Israeli side continues maneuvering and intransigence; and the talks are reaching an impasse. Avoiding this impasse can only be reached through a change in the Israeli stands or through a move by the cosponsors, particularly the American sponsor, to give momentum to the peace talks and to put an end to Israeli evasion of peace requirements.

Afghanistan

Fighting in Shiite Areas of Kabul Subsides

LD2109223292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Since last night, with a halt in the fighting between the forces of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and the Ettehad-e Eslami Afghanistan along with Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, the engaged parties have been transporting their wounded from the area of engagement, and representatives of the government's peace delegation have started their negotiations with the parties involved.

According to our reporter in Kabul, in the course of the recent days' clashes, a large area of western Kabul, where Shiites live, was hit by over 200 rockets and mortar shells, as a result of which at least 10 people were killed and 150 injured.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Defense Ministry issued a statement last night inviting the engaged parties to exercise restraint, threatening to intercede, and stating that the clashes run counter to the ideals of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan.

The report from our correspondent, who visited western Kabul today, suggests that while relative calm has been established since this morning, the people in the area remain anxious and are not coming out of their shelters.

'Sporadic Clashes' Continue

LD2109230592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Sporadic clashes between the Sayyaf party militia and forces of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye continued today. Sources affiliated to the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye announced that the Sayyaf forces opened long-range artillery fire on several residential districts of Kabul yesterday and today, killing and wounding more than 100 defenseless people. In retaliation the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye forces targeted positions of Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Eslami forces, inflicting some losses.

The Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye sources stressed: Yesterday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mazari, secretary general of the Hezbe-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye, speaking at a meeting with a peace delegation from the central provinces of Afghanistan, and some government officials, reiterated his party's stance of being prepared to stop the bloodshed by solving the dispute through talks.

Another report from Kabul indicates that in the first stage of establishing a cease-fire between the Hezbe-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye and Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Islami, heavy weapons fire was halted as of today, but sporadic clashes with lighter weapons continued.

Defense Forces Deployed To Keep Peace

LD2109224492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met today with representatives of various Kabul city wards. The meeting, held at the presidential palace, was attended by Vice President Mowlawi Mir Hamza.

According to a BIA [Bakhtar Information Agency] report the meeting was opened with the recitation of a few verses of the holy Koran, and then a number of participants spoke about the recent events in Kabul City.

Esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani then spoke about measures adopted by the Islamic State of Afghanistan concerning the establishment of complete security in Kabul city. He said: The Ministry of Defense has been instructed to place its forces in those regions where clashes are now taking place, particularly in city wards numbers three and five, to maintain complete security in these areas.

The meeting ended with prayers for the cessation of war and bloodshed in the country.

Dostam Reportedly To Put 3 Generals on Trial

LD2109233292 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 1430 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] General Dostam plans on putting generals under his command on trial. Quoting reliable sources in Mazar-e Sharif, a correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports from Kabul that Gen. Rashi Dostam, chairman of the sectorial coalition of the north, recently called a number of his generals to Mazar-e Sharif, including Gen. Majid Dostam, General Momin, and General Abdorrahman Girman.

The report adds that Gen. Rashid Dostam and other bosses of the sectorial coalition, who have been shattered at the defeat of their forces in the recent Kabul battles, intends putting these three generals and a number of other militia officers on trial. He considers them responsible for his defeat by the mojahedin of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan.

The report says that a number of militia officers and the Ministry of Defense, who took part in this war, are severely disturbed by this recent proposal.

India

New Delhi Seeks $9 Billion, 4-Year Loan From IMF

BK2109042692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] India has sought an IMF loan of $9 billion over the next four years. These include $3 billion for this year to back up India's current structural adjustment program. Addressing the interim committee of the IMF in Washington, the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, described India's financial needs as modest and said the

timely availability of the amount sought could make an enormous difference to the success of its restructuring effort. He said the success of India's efforts is of considerable importance to the world. The finance minister held discussions with the IMF managing director, Mr. Michel Camdessus, which remained inconclusive. The discussions are likely to resume later this week.

Commentary Supports Appeal for IMF Loan

BK2209035892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Commentary by Journalist A.K. Bhattacharya: "Seeking More IMF Loan for Reforms"]

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has indeed been quite candid when he told the interim committee of the International Monetary Fund at Washington on Sunday that India would need a total international assistance of about $9 billion in the next three years. The amount he outlined might appear too large, but the fact is that this is the bare minimum that is required to sustain the reforms that the Indian Government's new economic policy has envisaged. Thanks to the new trade policy freeing imports from bureaucratic controls and to the introduction of a lower tariff regime, the trade deficit this year is likely to be over $6 billion. If a deficit of this size has to be bridged, the government would need a minimum $3 billion of exceptional financing arrangement to be tied up this year from agencies like the International Monetary Fund. To further sustain such imports in the next three years, the government will be requiring $2 billion annually as exceptional financing resources. That is what Dr. Manmohan Singh has sought from the international financial community. The hope is that in the next three years import competition will make the Indian economy more efficient and enable its manufacturers to compete in the world markets and earn enough to finance the country's imports. This coupled with growing foreign investment and stock market investment will create adequate surpluses in the economy's external sector to sustain further reforms.

Going by the international mood, there should not be an iota of doubt about the acceptance of Dr. Singh's request for more external resources. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have profusely praised India's reforms program in the last one year and are convinced that the structural adjustment strategy might work in this country. To that extent, India needs the IMF and the World Bank as much as they want the reforms process to succeed in this country. A vibrant and competitive Indian economy after the reforms would be as much a credit for the present government as it would be a testimony to the credibility of structural adjustment strategy. Pleading for a $9-billion assistance at this juncture, therefore, seems to be one more adroit move on the part of India's finance minister.

Tender Floated for Privatization of Companies

BK2109042492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text]The government has floated a tender for disinvesting 5 percent of the shares in eight blue-chip public sector undertakings. These include Steel Authority of India, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum, Hindustan Zinc, Rashtriya Chemicals, HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools], NALCO [National Aluminum Company], and Neyveli Lignite. Bank institutions, mutual funds, registered brokers, or anyone permitted to deal in shares are eligible to participate in the tender. The face value of each share is 10 rupees and offers have to be made in marketable lot of 100. The tenders can be submitted up to the 6th of next month to the Department of Public Enterprises. The total value of shares put up for disinvestment amounts to about 40 crore rupees. This is the second round of disinvestment in public sector undertakings.

Private Oil Refineries To Import Crude Directly

BK1809162492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] All new private sector refineries have been allowed to import crude directly. So far, crude oil imports have been channellized through the public sector Indian Oil Corporation.

A spokesman of the Petroleum Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi that the policy decision has been taken as part of the liberalization drive. He said the government has allocated $5.1 billion for the import of crude oil, high speed diesel, and kerosene for the current year. The country, however, requires about 1 million tons of petroleum products and 1 and ½ million tons of crude more than the imports last year as the demand is growing. This will entail an additional foreign exchange of about 1,000 crore rupees.

Force Sent to Madras To Deal With Tense Situation

BK1909162892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] The Tamil Nadu unit of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has described as unfortunate the participation of the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, in a conference organized by the Pattali Makkal Katchi [PMK] in Madras. In a statement, the party said it is a matter of concern that the National Front leader took part in the conference where some separatist slogans were raised.

Meanwhile, three companies of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] personnel have arrived in Madras to deal with the tense situation following the arrest of some PMK leaders and their subsequent release. Some Congress-I workers were arrested today when they attempted to burn the effigies of some political leaders.

'Suspected Militants' Kill Six in Uttar Pradesh

BK2109032492 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] A PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] report says suspected militants shot dead six persons in Giddapur near Hapur in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Three of them were killed on the spot, while the rest died on way to hospital. The unidentified assailants, who indiscriminately fired on a

vehicle carrying eight persons, escaped in a vehicle, eyewitnesses said. The senior superintendent of police, Ghaziabad, has ordered deployment of paramilitary forces in the area. The interstate border has been put under strict vigil.

Four Top Kashmiri Militants Killed, 56 Arrested

BK2109152292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, four top militants were killed and 56 Pak-trained hardcore militants arrested from different parts of the valley during the last 24 hours. The director general of police, Mr. B.S. Bedi, said in Srinagar today that the security forces in a swift operation recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition, including some sophisticated weapons.

Two Top Punjab Militants Killed by Security Forces

BK1809162692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] In Punjab, two top militants have been killed in separate encounters with security forces. The so-called chief general of a militant outfit, Balwant Singh, and his companion were killed near village Khairdeen of Amritsar district this evening. A police spokesman told our Amritsar correspondent that Balwant Singh was responsible for over 1,000 killings, kidnappings, extortions, and rapes. He carried a reward of 15 lakh rupees on his head. Another hard-core militant and deputy chief of a militant organization, Sukhdev Singh Sukha, alias Khara, and his accomplice were killed in an encounter with security forces in the Tarn Taran area of Amritsar district.

Paper Criticizes Recent Deportation of Bangladeshis

BK2109142992 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Sep 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Deporting Bangladeshis]

[Text] The deportation of 132 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants from Delhi on Wednesday could have been applauded had the circumstances been different. Packing all of them—men women and children into a compartment meant for 90 was utterly inhuman, particularly since the journey was to last 36 hours. Equally inhuman was the fact that many of them were being sent back without their families. Given the lot of the destitutes and helpless who live in slums or on the roadside, it is not difficult to imagine what can happen to their wives and children who remain here. The question arises, why were their families, whose whereabouts could easily have been found out from them, not sent back as well? The absence of a plausible explanation will only reinforce the impression one gathers from the reports on the deportation that people had been picked up at random. This in turn tends to discount the reported claim that Wednesday's deportation marked the beginning of the implementation of an "action plan" worked out by the Delhi Administration in consultation with the Union Home Ministry. To all appearances, it was yet another of the random deportations carried out from time to time. Only, given the publicity it has received, the public can hardly be blamed for suspecting that it was meant to blunt the edge of the Bharatiya Janata Party's criticism of government inaction in the matter of Bangladeshi infiltrators, which preceded it.

If there is a comprehensive "action plan", then Wednesday's exercise suggests a lack of will to implement it earnestly. This will not do. Implementation has to be thorough and humane. Besides, deportation is by no means enough to cope with the problem of illegal immigration. Not all who come in illegally can be detected. Also, deportation will have little impact if the influx continues at the present rate. The answer lies in curbing the latter. While distress in Bangladesh is the basic cause of it, organised gangs in both India and Bangladesh are involved in the human traffic. A number of Bangladeshi children, meant to be sent to the Gulf area for the purpose of the inhuman sport of camel racing, have been detected. But only insignificant people involved in the racket have been arrested. The big fish remain elusive. The influx will continue as long as they are not brought to book and politicians have ration cards issued to illegal immigrants and get them registered as voters.

Meanwhile, a much sharper watch has to be kept along the long and porous Bangladesh border. For this, there is an urgent need to implement the existing plans to increase the strength of Border Security Force [BSF] personnel and the number of BSF outposts along the West Bengal-Bangladesh border. Also strong action is needed against BSF personnel involved in illegal immigration rackets. Since, in the last analysis, illegal immigration will only end if economic conditions improve in Bangladesh, New Delhi should in its own interest do everything possible to accelerate the economic development of its neighbour.

Iran

Commander Warns Against Airspace Violations

LD2109124792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] On the eve of Holy Defense Week, Brigadier-General Sattari, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's air force, announced in an interview with our reporter: We are in the process of strengthening the defensive foundations of the country's air force, and fortunately, we now have all the facilities and resources we require. He said: The logistical policy of the air force has always been to avoid reliance on external and foreign sources for spare parts, and all the equipment required by air force planes is made inside the country by Iranian specialists. We have the necessary resources for the next 15 years.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's air force commander said: The capacity at our technical equipment factories is very high, and we even exceed international standards in some areas.

He issued a warning in connection with recent developments relating to possible adventurism in the region by foreigners, and he stressed that the Islamic Republic of

Iran's air force will proceed with greater vigilance and that any aircraft which violates Iran's airspace will be forced to make an emergency landing and, if necessary, shot at.

IGRC Reaffirms Allegiance

LD2109101192 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, OANA-IRNA—The Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in a statement, issued on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the 1980-88 Iraqi imposed war against Iran, underlined its readiness to defend Iran's territorial integrity.

"The brave pasdaran (revolutionary guards) and basijis (mobilization forces), alongside the courageous army forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, are ready to safeguard and defend the territorial integrity of the country under the leadership and command of Ayatollah ('Ali) Khamene'i," the statement noted.

The 'Sacred Defence Week' marking the anniversary of the Iraqi imposed war will start September 22 during which special ceremonies are to be held throughout the country.

"It is incumbent upon us to prepare ourselves with all might, as in years of the sacred defence, so as to confront the numerous conspiracies of the world arrogance, led by the criminal U.S.," the statement stressed.

UAE Stance on Abu Musa Issue Praised

LD2209105692 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—The United Arab Emirates' [UAE] proposal to settle the Abu Musa dispute through peaceful negotiations proved that the regional nations and governments seek tranquility in the Persian Gulf but that the satanic powers are after their own interests, said 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Tuesday. The editorial in the Persian daily referred to the wise stance adopted by Iran towards the Abu Musa issue and said that the UAE authorities, too, seem to favor the settlement of the issue and are aware of the fact that propaganda hue and cry on the question is not to their benefit.

The evidences indicate that the UAE authorities, from the very beginning, were trying to solve the issue through peaceful means but that certain "impudent" countries and media have tried to be "more Catholic than [the] Pope" and place the UAE in an irreversible path. The passage of time well proved that those who claim to support the UAE are actually after securing their own interest to the extent that even the war-mongering Iraqi regime chose to launch propaganda in support of the UAE. The editorial praised the UAE for avoiding to fall into the trap of false propaganda of the media and to settle its issue prudently.

"The recent developments proved that the poisonous propaganda by the arrogant media were never taken seriously in Iran and did not frighten anybody here, that the Islamic Republic's policy towards the issue is clear and solid and that the UAE authorities are wise and intelligent." The UAE quickly realized the depth of the conspiracy and found out that those who speak on their behalf are not their real friends but those who are preparing the ground for a new crisis in the region so as to secure their own interests.

The paper stressed that the tranquility in the region must be preserved and that establishment and securing of this tranquility should be provided by the regional states. The experience of Abu Musa proved that once the regional countries do not allow others to hatch conspiracies, even the most serious ones would fail and be neutralized immediately causing the disgrace of the culprits.

"Isn't this experience enough (reason) to awaken the regional states?" JOMHURI asked in conclusion.

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

NC2209072292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Report on a speech by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati during the 47th annual session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 21 September]

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati warned the United Nations against discriminating on international crises and problems, saying: At this sensitive time, discrimination is the greatest threat to the United Nations and can make this organization a means to legitimize powerful countries' acts.

Explaining, Velayati criticized the policy of double standards that the big powers are following on international crises, a policy based on political interests: The Security Council's approach to Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and to the Zionist regime's aggressions clearly demonstrate this policy. He added: Not using existing means to confront some crises for political reasons—as you have seen in the Security Council's erratic approach to Serbia's overt aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina—is another example.

Our foreign minister cited as other examples the lack of attention and inattention to the explosive situations in Somalia and Liberia and referred to the abuse of humanitarian ideals to fulfill shortsighted political objectives. He stressed that a just approach to world problems, which does not discriminate, can strengthen UN effectiveness.

Velayati thanked the secretary general for his efforts to compile a draft peace plan to strengthen the UN role in preventive diplomacy, saying: This report contains extremely sensitive theoretical and practical points, which the General Assembly should defend. As the sole pillar that includes the entire United Nations, this body should compile and approve the organization's program. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to actively participate in a General Assembly working party to study the secretary general's report.

On the Security Council role, on which the secretary general's report focuses attention, Velayati said: This Council's authority to perform the duties assigned to it is not unlimited and it should pursue the UN Charter's principles and objectives as well as principles of international law in its deeds and decisions. Discriminating in issues concerning

international peace and security, going beyond the limit of authority and abusing the privileges that have been granted to members of the Security Council, particularly to its permanent members, all harm the Security Council's credibility and, ultimately, that of the United Nations.

He pointed out that the Security Council is responsible for the international community, shown in the General Assembly, and it should be answerable to this community on the basis of the UN Charter.

Supporting intensifying world efforts for disarmament and arms control, particularly the removal of mass destruction weapons, the foreign minister described the convention preventing the production, proliferation, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons as an important step in arms control.

Velayati referred to the need for the nonproliferation of nuclear arms. Pointing to the Islamic Republic's initiative on creating an area free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, he announced Iran's readiness to participate in any comprehensive and constructive plan.

Velayati also referred to the problems of Palestine, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Afghanistan, and Karabakh. On the Palestinian problem, while expressing support for the Palestinians' just uprising, he said: Iran expects the world community to seriously confront the aggressive and suppressive policies of the Zionist regime. Velayati said: The bitter experiences of almost five decades have proven that peace and tranquility can return to the area only through struggles, the full vindication of the rights of the Palestinian people, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian government throughout the land of Palestine.

He described the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis as a crime against the people in that country—a crime that is rare post-World War II—and said: Serbia and its elements remain indifferent to the decisions adopted by the international community and are continuing their crimes against the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina and especially against its Muslim inhabitants. He called for the Security Council's military intervention in Bosnia, saying: The Security Council should take the necessary steps on the basis of Article 42 of the UN Charter to end the aggression and to revive the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and political independence of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Our foreign minister welcomed the mojahedin victory in Afghanistan and the formation of an Islamic Government there and pointed out the need for other countries not to intervene in Afghan domestic affairs, saying: Iran is prepared to cooperate with other countries and international organizations to rebuild Afghanistan and send humanitarian assistance to it.

On the Karabakh problem, he referred to the Islamic Republic's efforts to end the conflict, to establish a cease-fire, and to commence talks, saying: Unfortunately, when the international community, particularly the Security Council, did not seize the opportunities that arose during the cease-fire—the strengthening of which and the dispatch of peace forces could have paved the way for a lasting peace—war and bloodshed resumed and continued for a long time. Velayati said: The Karabakh crisis can be solved through talks and based on the principle of mutual respect, nonintervention in domestic affairs, and the preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries involved.

Concluding his speech, Velayati expressed support for efforts to strengthen the UN and make it more effective and for the progress of the United Nations.

Necessity of Turkish Apology Emphasized

NC2109131192 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
13 Sep 92 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Sezgin—Promise or Action?"]

[Text] After weeks of anticipation, Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin finally arrived in Tehran.

Sezgin is accompanied by a number of Turkish law enforcement officials. Informed regional sources believe that he has come to Iran in view of the release of the Cape Maleas, a ship rented by Iran, and that he intends to hold talks on border security arrangements.

These sources also add that Sezgin will also try to discuss the reasons behind the disputes between the two countries and to directly convey the Iranians views on this to Ankara.

Apart from all its regional and international contexts, this visit is taking place at a time when all existing facts show that Turkey has taken the first step toward the deterioration of relations between the two countries.

Of course, if we want to be as pessimistic as Ankara and the Turkish press, we can say that the Turks consider themselves to be so justified that they have gone as far as to mass forces on our joint borders.

Ankara is accusing Iran of supporting Kurdish guerrillas at a time when Ankara itself has provoked the Kurds' secessionism and when it does not hesitate to blackmail its other neighbors, so much so that some say that the Euphrates waters are churning out dollars for Turkey.

Sezgin, who had asked weeks ago that his visit to Iran be approved, definitely believes that by announcing the news on the release of Cape Maleas and by speaking from a position of power in view of Turkey's massed forces, he will be able to force Tehran to accept Ankara's stances.

At a time when the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf; the critical fate of Iraq; and the exacerbation of the social, political, and economic situation in the independent republics of the former Soviet Union requires the region to expand the groundwork for cooperation, have the Turks sown anything but the seeds of tension in order to expect to reap something else today?

What the Islamic Republic has been saying for the past decade concerning the expansion of regional cooperation—both economic and political—may have been portrayed by some as mere slogans. But if these naive people who

believed so in the past had looked at the situation differently, they would not have been involved in a crisis today. Should Turkey, which is encouraging the Iraqi Kurds to resort to secessionism and to lean toward the United States, not expect opposition from the Turkish Kurds at whom it is pointing its bayonet?

Sezgin's visit cannot be successful merely because he is coming with a suitcase full of promises from Turkey.

Iran neither deviated from its principled stances nor interfered in the domestic affairs of others.

However, Turkish statesmen have never fulfilled their promises to Iran or to other countries to the extent that they could hope to achieve something today or be able to state in various interviews after returning to Turkey that their visit was victorious.

Victory can only mean the elevation and the grandeur of a nation. But Turkey is a country with one of the highest debts in the world and a country that has linked its political will to U.S. economic assistance.

The problem between Iran and Turkey cannot be overcome only by the release of Cape Maleas. Therefore, this trip can be considered successful only if Mr. Sezgin formally informs the Iranian nation that his government apologizes for its past behavior.

Regime Blamed for Assassinations

NC2209083092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Now that the world is stepping up its accusations and condemnation of the clerical regime over the assassination of our party's secretary general, now that all of Kordestan has become a sea of revolutionary rage and is threatening the existence of the clerical regime, the reactionary and terrorist-nurturing regime—in a bid to avert this dissatisfaction and to fool the world—has alleged that it was not involved in this assassination and that it is ready to cooperate with German Government investigations.

Everyone knows that only the sinister regime of the Islamic Republic could commit such acts. Its ideas are based on not tolerating its political and ideological opponents and it is geared entirely toward suppressing and persecuting its opponents and to acts of terrorism against them.

The assassinations of Dr. Qasemlu, Dr. Bakhtiar, Dr. Kazem Rajavi, Borumand, Gholam Keshavarz, and several other political opponents of the regime, the blowing up of a minibus belonging to the party, and Islamic Republic mercenaries' planting of bombs on the roads used by party vehicles in the past few weeks show that the clerical regime also perpetrated the crime against Comrade Dr. Sharafkandi.

Remarks two weeks ago by the regime's Intelligence Minister Fallahiyan, who blatantly spoke about resorting to terrorism against regime opponents at home and abroad, further prove the Islamic Republic's involvement in this dastardly crime.

While repeating that we blame the clerical regime, we call on the people of Kordestan, on humanitarian organizations and forums, and on freedomseekers to express their rage and aversion toward the clergymen more than before.

The regime intends to deflate the rage and aversion that you and the world feel for it, but everyone knows that the clerical regime's official policy is based on lies and hypocrisy. The record of this regime, killing and suppressing freedomseekers and the strugglers of the Iranian peoples, especially the Kurds, is so black that nothing can hide it. The face of this regime has long been scourged by assassinations, pogroms, and the violation of human rights.

Sharafkandi's Successor Addresses Memorial Service

NC2109073092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] On the occasion of the heartrending incident in Berlin that led to the martyrdom of the outstanding leader of our party, Comrade Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi, and of comrades Fatah 'Abdoli, Homayun Ardalan, and Nuri Dehkordi, at 1700 yesterday, Saturday, 19 September, a memorial service was held for the everlasting martyrs of the people at the Political Bureau with the participation of the party leadership, party cadres and peshmerga, and families residing in the Political Bureau [as heard].

During this ceremony, Comrade Mostafa Hejri, successor to the secretary general, spoke about the horrific crime in Berlin and stressed that the movement and operations of the Kordestan movement and of the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran [DPK] will not be halted with the martyrdom of combatant Comrade Dr. Sharafkandi.

In another part of his speech, he called on the people of Kordestan to express their aversion toward this criminal act in every possible way. In conclusion, Comrade Mostafa Hejri renewed his allegiance and said that he will remain faithful to the path charted by the martyrs until victory is achieved.

The untimely death of our martyred Comrade Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi and his associates sparked a wave of sorrow and dissatisfaction against the reactionary clerical regime in Kordestan. The oppressed people of Kordestan have been plunged into mourning. A three-day general mourning has been declared in Iraqi Kurdistan, and the cities of al-Sulaymaniyah, Diyanah, Raniyah, Irbil, and Darbandikhan are in mourning for the demise of our martyred leader.

The righteous people of Darbandikhan gathered in front of the offices of the Front of Iraqi Kurdistan, and, chanting slogans against the clerical regime, they started to march toward the party headquarters in order to participate in the funeral service for the martyrs.

Let us express our revolutionary rage and aversion toward the criminals of the clerical regime with demonstrations, closing shops and offices, and—in short—in every possible way, and show that the Kurds are strong and united, and that it is the terrorist and terrorist-nurturing regime of the Islamic Republic that is helpless and disgraced.

Khamene'i Comments on Propagandizing Islam

NC2109095392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, spoke at the recommencement of extracurricular theology lectures. He called on religious seminaries to pay serious attention to research and education in the various fields of Islamic sciences, to make special efforts toward the progress of law and jurisprudence, to propound new ideas on the basis of law and jurisprudence, to propagandize religious truths at home and abroad, and to understand and be informed of world developments. He also stressed the need to acquire virtue and spirituality and to avoid worldly goods.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed out that the scholars and students of the religious seminaries should grant priority to research, teaching, and learning, and stated: Research in the various Islamic sciences, especially in jurisprudence and principles, should be encouraged at the Qom Religious Seminary and at other seminaries. The scholars and students should deal with new problems that can afflict society, and the tradition of permission granted by seminary officials to students to interpret the law should be revived.

Pointing out the importance of propagandizing in the religious seminaries, the leader of the revolution said: The conditions for propagandizing Islam in the world are more favorable than ever before, and this is something the religious seminaries should carefully take into consideration. Today, Muslims in the various parts of the world, particularly in the Muslim-inhabited republics of the former Soviet Union, thirst for Islamic truths and teachings. Meanwhile, arrogance is doing its best to propagandize against Islam. Thus, the students and scholars in the religious seminaries should prepare themselves for propagating Islamic teachings at home and abroad.

Stating that subjectivism is one of the major requirements of jurisprudence and correct interpretation, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stated: Theological students should be fully aware of world developments, and the religious seminaries should resort to various means—such as offering the necessary education, publishing useful publications, and using informed scholars—to inform the students and scholars of the problems of the day.

The leader described the religious seminaries as deeply rooted and self-reliant institutions, and stated: Since the seminaries have been independent and self-reliant in all aspects up to now, in the future, too, this independence should be preserved. Of course, this does not mean noncooperation and the absence of links with the Islamic system and government. The religious seminaries should always add to their support for the Islamic system and bolster their links and cooperation with the Islamic government more and more each day.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution said that the preservation of the seminaries' independence depends on the active participation of the seminary scholars, and he added: Management of the seminaries' affairs should be in the hands of the seminaries' scholars and ulema, and they should grant priority to this.

Continuing, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i discussed the outstanding role of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—and of the Islamic Revolution in relation to the religious seminaries, noting: The imam and the revolution are the reason for the existence of the religious seminaries, and this should never be forgotten. Had it not been for the imam and the revolution, the enemies of Islam would have destroyed the religious seminaries. But the imam and the revolution granted dignity to the seminaries. The seminaries should pay attention to the revolutionary theological students who were at the frontlines, and to those who are serving the revolution and the Islamic system today and attach the necessary value to their efforts and services.

In another part of his remarks, the leader of the revolution referred to His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Kho'i, may he rest in peace, and described him as a great researcher and scholar who was an outstanding figure not only as a source of emulation but also in the various fields of Islamic sciences and especially in law and jurisprudence.

In conclusion, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i called on the students and scholars of the seminary to practice virtue, spirituality, and Islamic ethics; to preserve their interest in learning; not to be fooled by material and worldly goods; and not to serve mammon.

Officials Address Friday Imams Seminar

Ahmad Khomeyni on Jurisprudence

NC2109104492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The eighth nationwide seminar of Friday imams continued last night with a speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, in which he noted the need to identify needs and to regulate jurisprudential decrees with the exigencies of time and place. He said: Islam is a religion that is in concordance with human temperaments, and it pays profound attention to the happiness and progress of mankind in all fields. One of the important duties of the Friday imams is to recognize the needs of society and to speak truths. We should correctly understand needs in the various political, cultural, economic, and social fields and have answers based on Islamic decrees and teachings for all questions that arise.

Elsewhere in his speech, he said that devotion to the ideals of the Islamic Revolution is among the principles of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, adding: We will not deviate even one inch from the positions of Imam Khomeyni and of His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, leader of the revolution, on this.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni then referred to the common link between various cultural and economic issues, saying: We should display insight and realism, and while being sensitive to ideals and to Islamic and

revolutionary principles, strive in a comprehensive manner to solve cultural and economic problems. In regard to this, the Friday imams should not forget their guiding role.

[In a similar report in its 0230 GMT cast on 21 September, the radio adds the following: "Ahmad Khomeyni stated: Now that the establishment of the rule of the Islamic system in Iran has given rise to hopes among other Muslims that in the implementation of Islamic teachings, the jurisprudential reasoning of the scholars will be based on the correct identification of the exigencies of time and place. Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni then referred to the problems of the era of reconstruction and development, and stressed the need for flexibility in economic plannings and for the implementation of systematized policies."]

Majles Speaker on U.S. 'Plots'

LD2109182892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The eighth seminar of Friday imams from all over the country continued its second day of work with speeches by Mr. Yazdi, chief of the Judicial Branch, and Mr. Nateq-Nuri, chief of the Legislative Branch.

According to our reporter, Mr. Yazdi stressed in his remarks that Friday imams are duty bound to make people aware of the importance of Friday prayers in the Islamic community. He referred to the important position held by Friday imams among the people, saying: Friday imams should raise their awareness and increase their knowledge of events and existing circumstances by drawing on documented and precise information. The secretariat of Friday imams of the country plays a crucial role in this connection. [passage omitted]

Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri, the second speaker of the Friday prayer leaders seminar, explained Iran's international position and described the plots hatched by global arrogance, led by America, against the Islamic Revolution.

Referring to the victory of Muslims in the Algerian elections; the Hizballah's impressive success in elections in Lebanon; the fruitless Madrid Conference; and revolutionary developments in Palestine, Afghanistan, and Kashmir, he said: America regards Iran as the source of all these developments and perceives Iran as an obstacle to the execution of its policy of dominating the region.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri noted that the recent assassination of some Kurdish leaders in Germany was the outcome of America's policy. He said: To attribute this action to Iran is, in reality, an American policy aimed at ruining German-Iranian relations and presenting an aggressive image of Iran.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri added: Those who claim to support human rights, by neglecting the massacre of people in Bosnia-Hercegovina and other problems that plague mankind throughout the world, have this year launched a serious debate concerning human rights against us, within the framework of a political conspiracy. They are standing against Iran's international influence and want to condemn us at the United Nations.

He said: Another issue they have raised in their confrontation with us is the recent debate concerning Abu Musa Island. Without cause and incidents they have sensationalized the issue, held meetings, issued statements, and spoken against us.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri then described some aspects of the economic situation in the country before and after the appointment of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president. He considered that the country's present economic policy serves as a foundation and the only possible path in guiding the country toward expansion and economic progress. He asked the secretariat of the Friday imams to place the latest statistics concerning the country's economic situation at the disposal of Friday imams all over the country every month. In conclusion, the Majles speaker described the achievements of the fourth term of the Majles.

According to this report, the eighth seminar of Friday imams from throughout the country ended its morning session today with a roundtable discussion on national security attended by Intelligence Minister Mr. Fallahian and National Security Council Secretary Mr. Ruhani.

Rafsanjani on Domestic Issues

LD2109221992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Friday imams from throughout the country, taking part in the eighth seminar of the country's Friday imams, this evening attended a dinner reception organized by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

Thanking the Friday imams for coming to Tehran, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the country's economic, political, cultural, and social issues. He referred to the government's effective steps to eliminate the country's cumbersome and useless administrative regulations. He said: The reformation of administrative laws and the investigation of offences committed by certain people at government departments will be followed up decisively.

The president described the trend of the economic movement of the society as positive. Referring to the implementation of the many infrastructural projects in the country, he said: Many of these projects have come to fruition. In many areas, where our situation was once unfavorable, we have now reached self-sufficiency. In some industries, such as steel and aluminum, we are even able to export our surplus production.

He also referred to solving the transportation problems in the country. He said: With the implementation of the Bafq-Bandar 'Abbas railroad project and the improvement of the Tehran-south railroad and the use of heavy trains on those routes the problem of transportation will be completely solved in the future.

He described the harnessing of the country's waters for use in agricultural projects as another success in government plans. He said: The inspection of the country's deprived areas is being followed up successfully. In the future we will witness economic and social growth and prosperity in such areas. [passage omitted]